

SKIING
WORLD CHAMPION
TITLE DEFENCE

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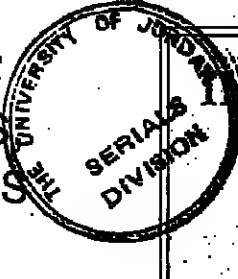
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ON
FRIDAY
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THE TIMES

No. 64,536

FRIDAY JANUARY 8 1993

45p

Families fear evacuation as tanker fumes spread

BY RAY CLANCY
AND LIN JENKINS

**■ Concern over shipping safety and
the threat to wildlife after the break-up
of the tanker Braer has given way to fears
that the health of the Shetland islanders
themselves may be at risk**

SHETLAND islanders may have to abandon their homes and move to the mainland as the oil slick from the stricken tanker Braer continues its relentless progress north, engulfing the community in a cloud of fumes.

Families had last night already started moving from the area closest to the wreck, either to relatives living further north or to friends' homes. Those who stayed at home were advised to keep children indoors, and one school cancelled outdoor play.

As storm force winds prevented a salvage crew boarding the Braer, her cargo of 84,500 tonnes of light crude oil continued to spill into the sea, adding to a slick that is leaving a film of oil across the main island. The Shetland Islands Council said it was ready to put its emergency evacuation plan into action and doctors in Aberdeen were standing by to help.

Initially, the action plan is intended to move people north to parts of the island that are still unaffected, but the slick is also moving north and yesterday, people up to 40 miles from the oil were complaining of headaches and nausea. About 3,000 people live in the vicinity of the slick, and with the stench hanging over half of the main land, many others may have to move.

Caroline Leach was one of the first to go. She has left her home in Sumburgh and taken her 18-month-old daughter and gone to stay with her family further north because she fears the air is dangerous. "I can't stand it any longer," she said. "I have to think about Natalie and the effect on her health." Another woman living in Lerwick said the oil had left a nasty taste in her

mouth, and a film of grease over her car. "We thought we would not be affected, after all we are 25 miles from the slick," Shellagh Cameron said. Salmon farms at Clift Sound and West Burra, 15 miles from the tanker, were also affected.

But the Scottish home and health department insisted last night that there was no danger. Dr Gerald Forbes told a "news" conference in Sumburgh: "There's no human health risk. There are no measurable total hydrocarbons in the air."

Martin Hall, the local council's director of environmental services, also played down the risks. He said air pollution levels were being constantly monitored and promised immediate action if they reached unacceptable levels. "Our main concern is for the people," he said. "We are constantly monitoring the situation, and soil samples have been sent to Aberdeen for analysis. If necessary, people will be evacuated. We have alternative housing available." But he emphasised that there was no immediate cause for concern and said that evacuation would be stressful for everyone involved. "It means asking them to lose their homes, their possessions, everything. That is not easy."

As mountainous seas continued to batter the Braer, it emerged yesterday that the tanker had been refused the "blue certificate" issued by the International Transport Workers' Federation - which

means it may have been boycotted by many oil industry workers because it did not meet minimum standards for crew pay and conditions.

The ship's crew made an official complaint a year ago about low pay, understaffing and poor conditions. That had not resolved, and two former captains of the vessel are also pursuing claims against the owners B and H Ship Management for outstanding pay.

Ale Selander, the federation's assistant general secretary, said the crew had complained of compulsory overtime of up to 200 hours a month, since the vessel needed constant maintenance. "We cannot say that the same crew members are on board, but it is likely that some are," Mr Selander said.

"These problems have not yet been resolved and the vessel does not meet our minimum collective agreement which would entitle it to a blue certificate. It follows that the company's assertion that it would a well-found ship and that all was fine and dandy has flaws in it. It would not appear to have been a happy ship."

B and H Ship Management countered: "The company has no dispute with the master, officers or crew of the Braer and the chief executive Mike Hudner went out of his way yesterday to praise their work. The crew have absolutely no dispute about pay and conditions."

Wild life dispute, page 3



Flying visit: Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, being lowered on to HMS Starling off Hong Kong yesterday. His Far East tour will also take him to Singapore

Saddam plays cat and mouse with allies

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

ALLIED jets were last night poised to attack Iraqi targets as the hours ticked away to the deadline issued to President Saddam Hussein for the removal of missiles from the southern "no-fly" zone. Mystery surrounded reports that the weapons had been moved but the Pentagon in Washington refused to give details.

Earlier, a senior Iraqi minister publicly rejected the ultimatum due to expire at 2230 GMT today and Kuwait placed its air force on alert. Western embassies in the region were warned to prepare for possible anti-Western violence if renewed attacks on Iraqi targets were ordered.

The Kuwaiti move came after an accusation that Iraqi forces had attacked a border post 50 miles north of Kuwait City on Tuesday night and engaged in a two-hour gun battle. Iraq denied the claim.

Iraq's claim that it was entitled to deploy anti-aircraft missiles anywhere in the country followed the ultimatum issued on Wednesday by the United States, Britain and France, with Russian backing. It demanded the removal of the missiles, seen as a danger to allied overflights and a test of American resolve in the closing days of the Bush administration.

"The stakes in the latest and most serious case of brinkmanship since the end of the six-week Gulf war were raised when Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, issued a defiant dismissal of the demand which he claimed lacked United Nations support.

Diplomats were divided over the likelihood of the Iraqi president making a last-minute climbdown as he has on some previous occasions. Many Arab observers have noted that renewed Western air attacks could boost his

Iraq united, page 10
Leading article, page 15

The finest columns

William Rees-Mogg and
Alexander Chancellor,
two of the most contro-
versial and authoritative
voices in international



journalism, are joining
The Times next week.
Lord Rees-Mogg is re-
turning as a columnist
on Mondays and Thurs-
days to the paper which
he edited from 1967 to
1981. Alexander Chan-
cellor, former editor of
The Spectator, will write
a weekly column on Sat-
urday. Both have written
most recently for The
Independent. They will
now complete the cast of
Britain's most formida-



ble page of newspaper
comment and opinion,
joining Bernard Levin,
Simon Jenkins, Matthew
Parris, Alan Cowen, Janet
Daley, Philip Howard
and Lynne Truss.
■ Also on Monday the
distinguished economic
commentator Anthony
Harris joins The Times
from the Financial
Times. He will be writing
twice weekly in the busi-
ness section alongside
Anatole Kaletsky and
Graham Scarjeant.

'Everything here now tastes sludgy, bitter — and evil'

EVEN toothpaste carries the foul taste of oil in the Shetland Islands today. The sickly taste of light crude sticks at the back of the throat, eyes smart and the head pounds.

Everything from chocolate to chips — even a cup of tea — tastes the same: sludgy, bitter, evil. The worst part is the lingering, oily taste in my mouth has slowly advanced to the back of my throat. In the gale force winds, you keep licking your lips, transferring the toxic traces into the body. Just



The islanders were not surprised
by the dead birds. But nobody
prepared them for the pollution
of the air, Ray Clancy writes

being in the open is now like standing over a car engine that is losing its oil. Everything is greasy, even hair, hands and clothes — as well as the roads, grass and sheep.

The overpowering stench hangs over many of the small islands of Shetland and the air pollution covers 50 per cent of the main island, according to the local council. The pollution is what the people of Shetland feared most. They were prepared for the dead birds and the threat to beaches, but no one told them that the slick would pollute on the ground and in

the air. Because the Braer has not broken in two, and with the weather hampering the clean-up operation, it is the steady leaking of oil that is ensuring constant trouble.

As the toxic parts of the crude oil blow in the air and are carried by the rain, it is hard for the people of Shetland to accept that it is not affecting their health. The council is monitoring air levels, and last night environmental health officers said there was not yet cause for concern. But those suffering headaches, sore throats and nausea found that hard to believe.

Bank sinks construction giant

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A CITY bank caused the destruction of Scotland's largest engineering company and put 2,800 jobs in jeopardy yesterday after it refused a desperate plea for a loan of less than £2 million.

Hill Samuel, the merchant banking arm of the TSB, admitted that it had refused to put up fresh money for Lilley, the £340 million construction group, even though four other banks and several leading shareholders had offered their support. The decision forced the company to call in the receivers.

Lilley was one of the best known companies in the construction industry and had worked on high profile projects such as Sellafield and

the McLellan Galleries in Glasgow. The group had almost £100 million of work in hand and was hoping to win contracts on the Jubilee Line extension in London.

Price Waterhouse, the receiver, says it must now sell Lilley's subsidiaries in a matter of weeks to safeguard jobs. The accountants said there had already been strong interest in the companies, which must be sold to repay bank debts of more than £50 million. Lilley's shares were suspended on the Stock Exchange yesterday morning, and shareholders are expected to be left with nothing.

Lilley had spent the last three months trying to reorganise its finances and cut

itself free from a struggling property development business.

■ Campaigners who have criticised the high street banks for overcharging customers and for treating small businesses unreasonably were summoned to a hastily convened private meeting at the Treasury yesterday with Anthony Nelson, the economic secretary (Tony Dawe writes).

They left after more than an hour, convinced that their grievances will be raised in the continuing dialogue between bank chairmen and the Chancellor.

Lilley's downfall, page 19
Builders gloomy, page 21
Business Comment, page 23

Nureyev to be buried in Paris on Tuesday

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

TRIBUTES to Rudolf Nureyev flowed in yesterday both from admirers and some adversaries as preparations were made to bury the dancer on Tuesday at the Paris cemetery favoured by Russian émigrés.

André Larquie, head of a newly-created Rudolf Nureyev Foundation, said he had asked to be remembered at a non-religious service on Monday at the Paris Opera Garnier, the venue for his first appearance in the West in 1961 and of his public farewell last October. The eulogy will be delivered by Jack Lang, the minister of culture.

The cemetery Nureyev

chose, Saint-Geneviève-des-Bois, is close to Orly airport, the scene of his death from the Kirov entourage to the arms of French gendarmes in 1961.

■ Princess Margaret, president of the Royal Ballet, yesterday sent a message from the hospital bed where she is recovering from pneumonia, expressing her sadness at Nureyev's death.

She praised his "great contribution to the ballet in general and to the Royal Ballet in particular. His performances with Dame Margot Fonteyn were unique."

Few Russians mourn, page 9

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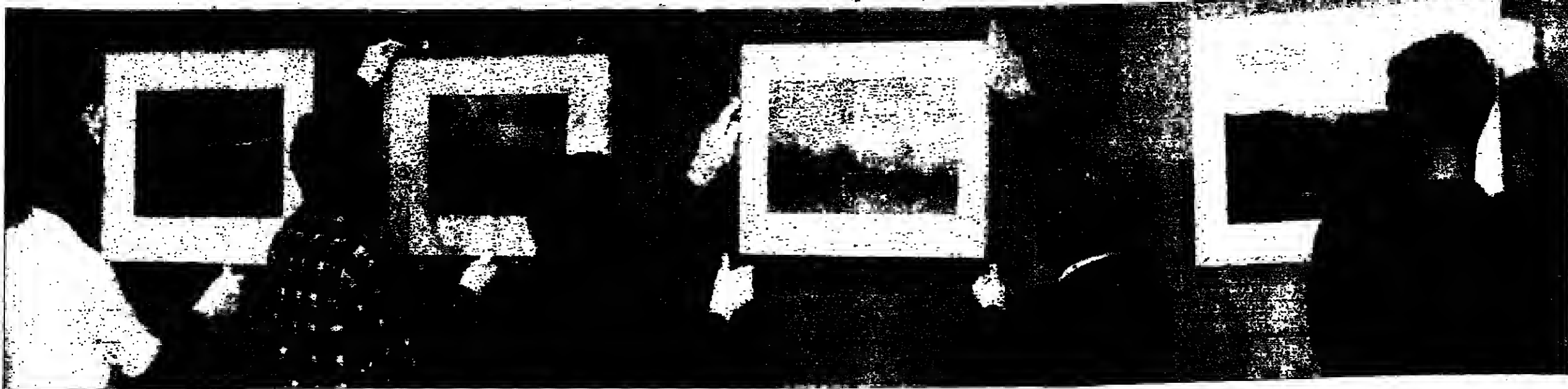
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Splash of colour: Royal Academy staff preparing an exhibition on how the development of British watercolours mirrored a revolution in landscape painting between 1750 and 1880

Jewel dealer admits smuggling gold 'for cash and fun'

By ROBIN YOUNG

DARIUS Guppy, the jewel dealer who was best man at the wedding of the Princess of Wales's brother, yesterday admitted smuggling gold to India for cash and "fun".

Mr Guppy, an old Etonian who is also godfather to Earl Spencer's daughter Kitty, has pleaded not guilty to a £1.8 million insurance fraud. Giving evidence yesterday, for the first time on the 32nd day of his trial, he told Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, that he had not seen anything "particularly wrong" in what he had done.

Mr Guppy said the operation had been a joint venture with a confessed fraudster whom he first met at Oxford University. Mr Guppy, who got a first-class degree from Oxford, claimed that Ishan Dutta, 28, a Bombay-based importer-exporter, was the one who "effectively" devised the bullion-smuggling operation, though they had shared the profits equally.

Dutta received a partially suspended sentence after admitting his part in the insurance fraud last year. Mr Guppy said the idea was to use the proceeds from bullion smuggling to buy gems, get them out of India and sell them for hard currency.

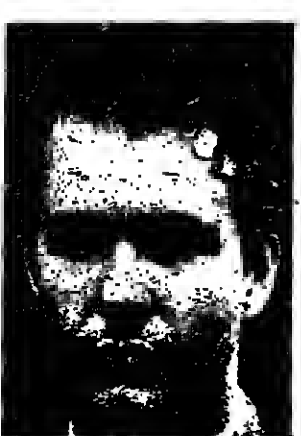
His counsel, Timothy Langdale QC, asked Mr Guppy why he had got involved. Mr Guppy replied: "First, to make money, to be frank. Second, because we thought Dutta could introduce us to good contacts in the gems business, and third, we thought it would be quite a fun thing to do."

Mr Guppy added: "I did not think it was anything particularly wrong — a private

transaction effectively between myself outside India and someone inside, and not, as it were, ripping anyone off but just a private transaction."

Mr Guppy claimed that Dutta had implied that if he did not go along with the smuggling operation useful gemstone contacts in India would "dry up". Mr Guppy said: "It was not blackmail but there was an understanding."

He told the jury he also



Guppy: did not think venture was wrong

became involved in a second gold smuggling operation to India, to help Dutta to raise money to bribe the Indian authorities. The scheme floundered after the first consignment, sent from Geneva, was intercepted by Customs in June 1990.

Mr Guppy said his job was to provide "administrative assistance". He told the court he now faced charges in connection with the smuggling. He denied having attempted to obtain a false passport for Dutta.

Mr Guppy, 28, of west

London, and Benedict Marsh, 28, of Southwark, southeast London, former executive directors of Inca Gemstones, a company set up under the Business Expansion Scheme, based in Jermyn Street, central London, have pleaded not guilty to one charge of conspiracy to defraud, one of conspiracy to steal and two of conspiracy to commit false accounting.

The prosecution claims they paid an accomplice to pretend to rob them of emeralds, sapphires and rubies in a hotel room in New York in March 1990. They then allegedly used bogus invoices supplied by Dutta's company, Raikial and Sons, to fool Lloyd's of London into believing the gems had been genuinely purchased, before plundering their own firm of more than £1.2 million of the £1.8 million insurance payment.

Mr Guppy told the court he first became interested in gems after his father, the explorer Nicholas Guppy, brought back sapphires from a trip to Sri Lanka.

Together with Mr Marsh, a friend from his Eton days, he set up Inca Gemstones. They each invested £50,000 which they borrowed. A third £50,000 came from Mr Marsh's father. Almost a further £1 million was raised under the government's Business Expansion Scheme, which offers tax concessions for investors.

Mr Guppy told the court he was now receiving legal aid. He said his father was "averagely wealthy once upon a time" but had lost "just about everything" in the Lloyd's market.

The trial continues today.



Penny Black: flaw through Victoria

White line on Black a rare find

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A FLAWED Penny Black, with a spectacular vertical white flash through the middle, has been discovered by a philatelist in north London.

The imperfection was spotted by George Gatt, a dealer, after he bought a box of unsorted stamps from another dealer and rummaged through the contents.

Mr Gatt, 45, said yesterday: "It is the most extraordinary discovery I have ever made. I knew it was a treasure the moment I saw it."

The flaw was caused by a crease in the paper before printing on a plate which went into service in June 1840, a month after the first Penny Blacks were issued. The user had stretched open the crease to reveal the uninked flash before attaching it to its long-lost envelope.

The stamp, in which Queen Victoria's bust appears to be severed, has been authenticated by the expert committee of the Royal Philatelic Society in London.

Mr Gatt, who is storing his discovery in a bank vault, expects to auction it at a later date and puts a £50,000 value on it. A used example of the stamp is today worth about £100.

Patrick Pearson, chairman of the expert committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, said: "It's a most unusual one-off variety."

Council tax bills to be 10% more than ministers forecast

By RACHEL KELLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL tax bills are likely to be 10 per cent higher than first announced by the government. Strict capping on council spending will mean that charges will still be lower in real terms than poll tax bills.

The most likely tax for a Band D house is £550, £50 more than the figure of £493 suggested by the government in November when it announced notional levels. The new figures take into account £2 billion of unpaid poll tax that 3.5 per cent of homeowners will not pay their bills, and that others will successfully appeal. These factors were insufficiently taken into account by the government because the figures were "not predictions or averages", Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said. They were used to determine grant levels.

The average household will still be paying less — allowing for inflation — than it paid in poll tax. The average council tax payable in England will be £505, compared to an average local tax in 1992-3 of £500 a household which, taking inflation into account, represents a drop in real terms. The new figures are the most accurate produced to date because they derive from a nationwide survey of councils, unlike previous estimates which relied on academic assumptions.

The latest figures show that there will be higher bills in the South East, which could lead to increased backbench dissatisfaction with the new tax. Tony Travers, of the London School of Economics, said: "Londoners will be paying on average almost £150 a household more than people in some other part of the country."

The government had managed to hold down council tax levels for the coming year by tight capping, Mr Travers said. "This may be just enough to introduce council tax without a massive political rumpus, but future years will see spending rising sharply again, then either council taxes will have to rise sharply

or government grant will have to increase significantly."

The Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils said that the figures, reported in the *Local Government Chronicle*, were in line with its own prediction. "We are not surprised by the idea that bills will be 10 per cent higher than the figures announced in November," a spokesman said. "There was a 10 per cent difference in the levels of community charge suggested by the government grant level and the actual charges between April 1992 and April 1993."

He said that not all unpaid poll tax debt would translate into higher bills. "A very large part of the debt will already have been provided for by councils, because of the previous provision for non-collection."

Labour estimated that the council tax levels were 28 per cent higher than the Tories' pre-election promise, made by Michael Heseltine, in 1991 when he predicted that a Band D house would pay £400. Revalued for inflation, the figure would now be £428 — £22 less than the *Local Government Chronicle* figure.

Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said: "No wonder the Tories refused to come clean on the council tax, during the election."

Test Valley Borough Council in Hampshire has decided to charge some residents a higher rate of council tax than others. It says that houses in Andover will have to pay more than those elsewhere in the borough because they are said to enjoy better amenities. Other councils are expected to follow suit, although the Test Valley decision may be taken to the High Court.

Police chief backs American baton

Police should wear knife-proof vests as a matter of routine, says the chief constable of a force in which 195 officers have been attacked in the past year. Richard Wells, head of the 3,000-strong South Yorkshire police, is in favour of the American side-handled baton to replace the traditional truncheon. He is also schooling his officers in martial arts.

The Police Federation called for the introduction of the American baton last week after the knife attack on WPC Leslie Harrison on Merseyside. The Home Office has doubts about its usefulness. Mr Wells called for more research into a suitable material for knife-proof vests. He said there should be stiffer sentences for assault on police, including a minimum six-month jail term, and more education for children on the evils of violence.

Banker in the betting

Edward George, deputy governor of the Bank of England, is even-money favourite with the bookmaker Ladbroke to become the next governor. A total of £50,000 has been gambled with the company on who will succeed Robin Leigh-Pemberton on July 1. When the betting closed on December 31, Mr George led the market from Sir David Walker, former head of the Securities and Investments Board, at 5-2. Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtlands and Reuters, at 5-1, and Sir Peter Middleton, former permanent secretary of the Treasury, at 8-1. Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, was 25-1. An announcement of the appointment is expected soon.

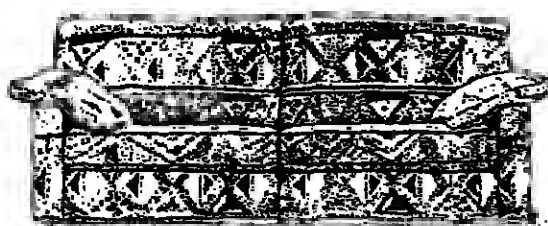
Prison swap man jailed

A man who swapped places with a prisoner who said he wanted to visit his sick father was jailed for six months yesterday. Martin Conway slipped past security at Sudbury Prison, Derbyshire, and donned the uniform of a violent criminal, Paul Corovic, who went on the run for almost two weeks. Conway, 21, confessed when prison officers confronted him with a photograph of the real inmate, Derby Crown Court was told. The escape was planned when Conway visited a friend in Sudbury. He was approached by Corovic, whom he had never met before. Sudbury, an open prison housing inmates including murderers wearing the end of life sentences, has one of the worst escape records.

Princess recovering

Princess Margaret was said yesterday to be making excellent progress in hospital, where she is being treated for pneumonia. The princess, aged 62, is spending her fifth day in the King Edward VII Hospital, central London. Buckingham Palace said that she had had another good night. She was admitted to the hospital as a precautionary measure last Sunday and is expected to remain there for a few more days. In January 1985 she had a section of lung removed, which doctors described as "innocent".

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Social workers cleared over abduction claim

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE health department last night cleared social workers of "abducting" two children after their parents alleged they had been seized against their doctor's advice. The government enquiry concluded that the Essex county council social workers had acted within the law.

The boys' mother said her social workers had always wanted to take her children away. In an interview in *The Spectator* magazine she says: "They told me when I was pregnant — they would take my son away when he was born."

The magazine claims there was no proof the parents neglected their sons and even hostile reports on their behaviour highlighted their love for them. But the social workers accused the parents, who live on a low income in a council house, of "failing to stimulate" their eldest child, which had hindered his emotional and intellectual development. At the age of seven he was taken into care with his brother.

The family's doctor told *The Spectator* the children were not at risk. "The problem was with the 'carers' not the family," he says. A judge upheld the social services' decision but called for an independent psychiatric assessment which questioned the council's conclusion. The magazine claims

that, after the assessment was released, the social services failed to reunite the family. But it is understood that an attempt by the council to return the boys to their parents allegedly failed when the parents neglected them. One of the boys has been adopted and the other is being considered for adoption.

A council spokeswoman said last night it was considering legal action against *The Spectator*. "We are also taking out two injunctions to prevent the children from being identified and to ensure that the adoptive parents are not approached," she said. David Willetts MP, a member of the social security select committee, said last night social workers sometimes thought they were above the law. "There is evidence from previous enquiries that social workers have not always acted within the law and informed parents of their rights."

Helen Dent, policy director of the National Children's Home, said the case highlighted the unfair treatment of poor families.

Sue Amphlett, director of Parents Against Injustice, said: "Parents living in socially deprived areas may not be able to stimulate their children which, under the Children Act, means they are being neglected."

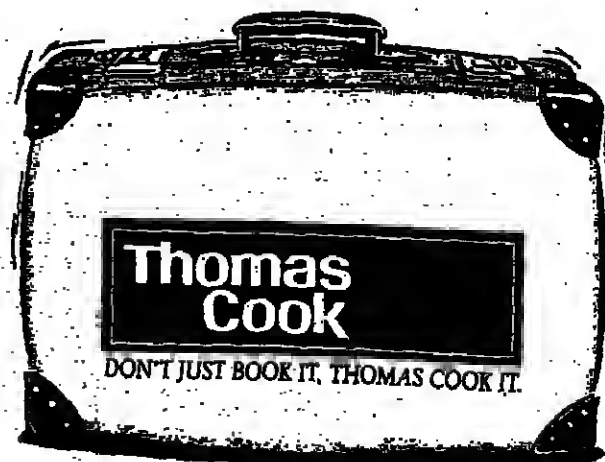
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Wildlife dispute of oil

Breathing oil mist ma

Shetlands in fear: people and animals at risk as workers fight to clean up the Braer spill

Wildlife experts in dispute over safety of oil dispersants

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

MARINE pollution experts yesterday gave a warning that efforts to clean up the Shetlands oil slick using dispersants might do as much harm as good.

Six Dakota aircraft under the control of the Department of Transport's Marine Pollution Control Unit were spraying dispersant contained in a supply ship that sailed from Lerwick at 08.00 yesterday. The operation is designed to disperse the oil before it can form an emulsion with sea water that will be resistant to attack.

The oil that has leaked from the tanker *Braer* is light, which makes it more toxic than heavier crudes. Dr Tony Stebbing, of Plymouth Marine Laboratory, said yesterday that the low molecular weight compounds found in light crudes were more poisonous to wildlife, but more likely to vaporise rapidly.

"You have to strike a balance between leaving them on the surface, where they can evaporate but where they can also damage birds and mammals, and dispersing them into the water column where they may poison fish."

"The pressure to do something is so enormous that people don't always recognise the dangers," he said. "Dispersants are much improved these days, but you have to be very careful in using them."

Sue Bell of the Marine Conservation Society agreed: "The temptation is to move in quickly to disperse the oil

because of the distressing plight of birds and seals. But we must not forget the effect of the clean-up operation on the things we can't see."

Quick action, she said, was best directed at using booms to stop the oil reaching the shore. Clean-up chemicals could cause the oil to form tarballs that sink to the bottom of the sea, smothering or poisoning varieties of seabed life which is a vital part of the food chain.

Dispersants produce an emulsion whose particles are exactly the right size for mussels, oysters and other shellfish to swallow. Birds and fish ultimately depend on such filter feeders, so killing them will lead in time to an even

more harmful than the oil itself. David Bedford, of the unit, said that clean-up efforts were at the mercy of the weather. "We have miles of boom arriving here to contain the oil slick and we are prepared to use it to protect salmon farming to the north-west and sensitive areas of coastline," he said.

Storms and heavy seas prevented salvage experts from boarding the *Braer* yesterday, but also helped the oil to vaporise and disperse. Dr Stebbing said about 40 per cent would have evaporated within a day or so of the spill.

Martin Hall, director of the Shetlands environmental services, confirmed that a computer projection indicated that the gales were helping to disperse the oil, but he said that a build-up of hydrocarbons in the atmosphere might yet occur.

Oiled birds rescued by teams of volunteers were being given medicines to flush the oil from their systems then, depending on their condition, cleaned with dish-washing liquid. Many were beyond saving: 107 of the 126 birds recovered from the Bay of Quendale on Wednesday were so badly oiled they had to be destroyed.

Tim Thomas of the RSPCA denied that the efforts to save wildlife were pointless. "It is absurd to suggest there is little chance of helping birds or mammals contaminated by oil spills. We have successfully cleaned many thousands of stricken wildlife in this way."

wider population loss. Many fish have already been washed ashore, including sand eels, the staple diet of seabirds such as puffins and Arctic terns, which breed in January and February in the waters around Shetland.

Phil Rothwell, head of coastal and marine policy for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "In a few months this spill will be a mere memory to most people. However, its effects on marine wildlife around Shetland will be felt for many years."

The Marine Pollution Control Unit believes the fears are misplaced. It said the dispersants had been tested for toxicity, and the combination of oil and dispersant could not



Life on the edge: Leonard Moar battles against storm force winds to secure an anti-pollution boom around a cage containing young salmon

Braving stormy seas to protect precious salmon

A HANDFUL of courageous men yesterday fought their way through stormy seas in an attempt to protect 35,000 young salmon from the encroaching oil slick in Shetland (Ray Clancy writes).

George Lamont Williamson and his assistant Leonard Moar roped themselves to the fish cage in Lang Sound, near Salloway, as they helped two pollution experts to encircle the 20-metre structure with an anti-pollution boom.

Force 10 winds tore at their bright orange waterproofs and waves crashed over their boat. "This slick

could have a devastating effect on the livelihood of farmers. I am not sure these booms will be effective but we just have to try," said Mr Williamson.

who owns several cages in the area but was helping out a fellow farmer before attending to his own stock.

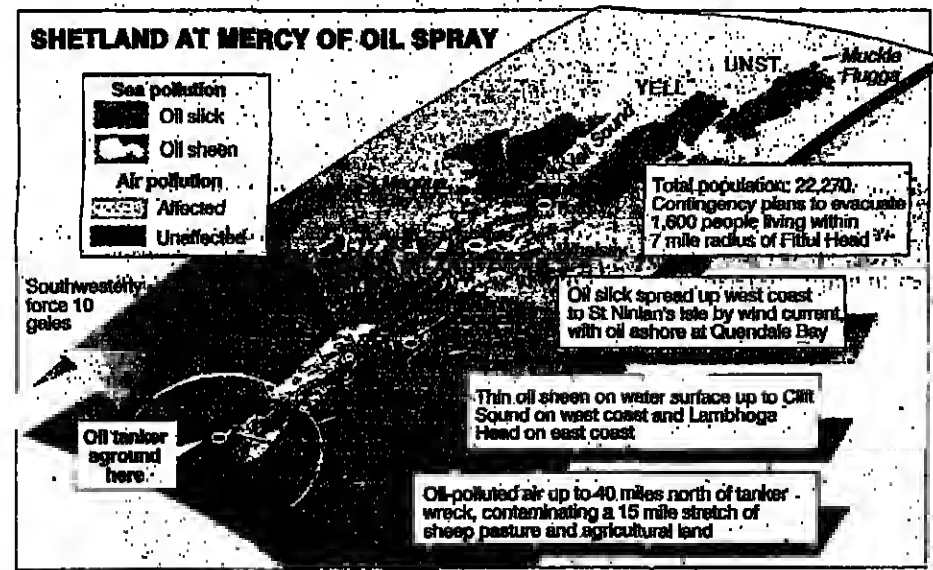
It had been a hair-raising journey. Mr Williamson manoeuvred as close as possible so the men could jump on to the cage and begin work. On board

he had 24 bags of absorbent material sent from Norway. Wound into sausage-shaped lengths 8in thick, the material is designed to soak up oil and prevent it getting into the cages and polluting their precious catch.

As the men worked the eight-week-old salmon, due to be harvested in August, thrashed inside the cage. With the salmon industry worth £34 million a year, the farmers are determined to do all they can to stop the slick. But Mr Williamson said: "At the moment the seas are too rough for the booms to be effective. What we want is calmer

weather but that also slows down the natural dispersal."

As the weather worsened the men tried to lash the booms around the lower rim of the cage at sea level. But after an hour's frustrating work exhaustion forced them to call a halt, and they had to leave the boom floating loosely in a circle. They frowned as news came over the boat's radio that the first traces of the slick had reached West Burra, two miles away. Near by other boats attempted to set up similar protection but were also beaten by the weather.



Breathing problems caused by oil mist may force evacuation

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

IT IS not only the long-tailed ducks and other seabirds and mammals whose health is at risk in Shetland; oil mist poses a threat to the human population. The damage it can do to the respiratory system is well known to industrial medical officers and to chest physicians who have studied the effects of inhalation of paraffin vapor.

Dr Robin Cox, vice-dean of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and formerly chief medical officer of Phillips Petroleum, spent more than 20

years in the oil industry but in all his experience cannot remember any situation in which a sizeable population was at risk of inhaling oil mist.

Even without the effect of any detergent being used to help disperse the oil, the *Braer's* cargo was so light that it has already been whipped into a mist by the high winds and rough seas.

Inhalation of oil mist can be dangerous to humans even if they haven't previously had any abnormalities of the bronchial tubes or lungs; it is very much more serious for those whose respiratory system is already vulnerable because of chest diseases, including common ones such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Oil mist irritates the delicate tissues of the bronchial tubes and the lung to give rise to an oily pneumonitis and bronchitis, to all intents and purposes a pneumonia and severe bronchitis despite the fact that it has not been caused by infection but by the irritant action of the oil.

Oil mist is not normally a problem in oil fields or refineries, and in the past has been more of a hazard to those who have been employed in printing rooms.

Although the greatest danger is the hazard it poses to the respiratory system, people with sensitive skin may also suffer badly, and others may develop a severe inflammation of the eye. Dr Cox is reassuring about the possibility of the oil mist being carcinogenic, although oils do contain polynuclear aromatic compounds that are particularly carcinogenic, evidence suggests that the patient would have to be subjected to them for a long time before they were at risk, nor would he expect any appreciable danger from eating contaminated fish meat.

Dr Cox suggested that there would be every good reason medically to evacuate the islands, particularly of people who already have respiratory problems, should the mist start to cause respiratory symptoms.

The government came under fire from Labour yesterday for showing "no sense of urgency" in its response to the disaster.

Chris Smith, the shadow environmental protection spokesman, questioned the seriousness with which the government was treating the accident. "It certainly doesn't seem to be being dealt with at the highest levels of government," he said.

So far the only ministers to have visited the scene of the disaster are Lord Cairness, the minister of state at the transport department, and Sir Hector Monro, a junior Scottish office minister, who both flew up to Shetland on Wednesday. Lord Cairness is still on the islands.

Mr Smith said he would have expected the lead to be taken "at the very least" at Cabinet level by John MacGregor, the transport secretary, Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, or Michael Howard, the environment secretary, or all three. Instead, they have "allowed the Earl of Cairness to do all the donkey work," Mr Smith said.

Lord Cairness is likely to remain on Shetland tonight and may stay on the islands until the weekend, according to transport department officials. Mr MacGregor is likely to visit Shetland within the next few days. Mr Lang is planning to fly to the islands on Saturday.

Jim Wallace, the Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland, yesterday wrote to the prime minister demanding radar surveillance cover for the heavily used channel south of Shetland where the *Braer* got into difficulties on Tuesday morning.

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Weekend Times
Joe Joseph is dogged by misgivings about Crufts

Alan Coren on a dinner that's hard to stomach

AND
Wildlife hospital

Howe tells Lamont to increase taxes as soon as possible

By Nicholas Wood
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont was warned by one of his predecessors yesterday that taxes would have to rise "sooner rather than later" as he prepared for the two-day pre-Budget meeting at Chevening with his team of Treasury ministers and advisers.

The Chancellor and his colleagues will gather at the foreign secretary's official country residence in Kent against a backdrop of a public sector borrowing requirement projected at £44 billion for 1993-4, or about 7 per cent of national output. In 1976, the last time it approached these levels, the result was emergency cuts in public spending.

A key question for the Chancellor is the timing of tax rises in a year when there will be two budgets, one in March and one in December. In the face of Treasury anxiety about the size of the deficit, the prime minister, backed by many Tory MPs, wants to postpone any painful measures until later in the year. He has been impressed by OECD figures suggesting that 70 per cent of the deficit should melt away once the economy resumes trend growth of 2.5 per cent.

Yesterday Lord Howe of Aberavon, who raised taxes and cut interest rates during the last recession, urged Mr Lamont not to delay the moment of reckoning. "It is most important that a govern-

ment should keep its borrowing requirement under control and it is the prospect of borrowing more than £1 billion a week in the year ahead that must be something the Chancellor is concerned with," Lord Howe said in a BBC radio interview. "Sooner rather than later is the right time to change taxes... Tax increases are tough and difficult but sometimes necessary."

John Watts, Tory chairman of the all-party Commons Treasury select committee, said that Mr Lamont should not jeopardise the recovery. "It is more important not to snuff out the recovery than to get borrowing down in the immediate future. So I would be against any significant tax increases."

After his decision to scrap the special car tax in the Autumn Statement, Mr Lamont has to find an extra £700 million in motoring taxes in the coming year. To recoup the lost revenue, the road fund licence would have to rise by £31 or petrol by up to 12p per gallon.

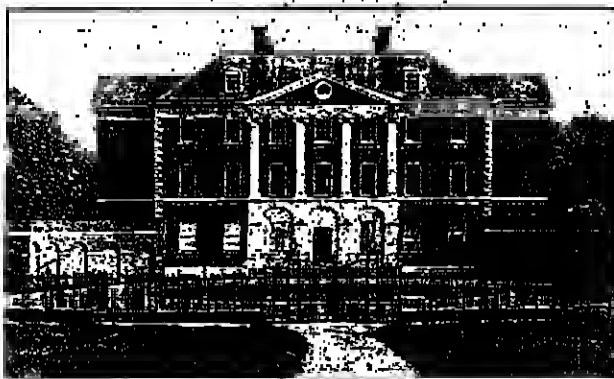
Mr Lamont needs to retain the confidence of the markets if he is not to face difficulty in financing the deficit and being forced to raise interest rates. Some senior Tories believe that he should redirect his energies to cutting spending, making the £80 billion-a-year special security budget his chief target. As a first step, he may tax invalidity benefit, which would net £450 million, and child benefit, which would produce £600 million if treated as the mother's income.

Extending VAT to include such items as domestic fuel, public transport and publications could raise billions and, alongside a further hike in petrol taxes, could be partly defended on environmental grounds. The prime minister said in the election that he had "no plans and no need" to take such a step.

Increasing employees' national insurance rates from 9 per cent to the employers' rate of 10.4 per cent, under consideration for next year, would raise some £2 billion.

The gathering will include officials such as Sir Terence Burns, the permanent secretary, Alan Budd, the chief economic adviser, and Andrew Turnbull, the second permanent secretary.

Lamont's dilemma and Diary, page 14



Counting house: Chevening, the site of the summit

Road safety minister is banned

By Ronald Faux

ROBERT Atkins, the minister responsible for road safety in Northern Ireland, was banned from driving for 21 days by Lancaster magistrates yesterday for driving at 71mph in a 30mph zone. Mr Atkins, the MP for South Ribblesdale, told the court that he had been late for an appointment and had 13 other engagements that day. He said he had not realised he was driving through a 30mph zone. The magistrates also fined him £800 with £25 costs.

Mr Atkins told the court he was entitled to a chauffeur-driven car in London but not in his constituency.

Later Mr Atkins said: "No one is above the law and I have apologised to the court for my offence."

□ The Road Safety Council for Northern Ireland pointed out in a statement that the environment department had run two campaigns highlighting the tragic consequences of driving at excessive speed.

Thatcher cash backs Eastern enterprise

By Robert Morgan, Political Staff

THE Margaret Thatcher Foundation, set up by the former prime minister to promote free enterprise around the world, has made its first grant to help aspiring entrepreneurs from former communist countries train in the United Kingdom.

About £30,000 will go to Enterprise Europe, a programme of training placements for young business people from Eastern and Central Europe. It is the first project to receive money from the foundation, set up by Baroness Thatcher after she left office in November 1990.

The Enterprise Europe programme involves one-month placements with British companies for young businessmen and women from Hungary, Poland, the Czech republic and Slovakia. They will receive the relevant guidance and experience in Western management skills and market economics.

Enterprise Europe, set up by a group of young people in the aftermath of the collapse of the

Berlin Wall, has so far brought 20 young people to Britain for training. This year 16 more will be coming, ten of whom will be backed by the Margaret Thatcher Foundation. They will be placed with organisations as diverse as a bus company in Glossop, Derbyshire, and a farm near Southampton.

Lady Thatcher said yesterday: "I hope that every one of the young people we help becomes a catalyst for the changes which are so necessary to transform the economies of Central and Eastern Europe."

She added: "I am impressed by the energy and commitment which these young people show and by the young volunteers who run the Enterprise Europe scheme."

Enterprise Europe's director, Pippa Markus, said: "We know from experience how valuable the trainees find their placements and the important links that they maintain with the UK once they have returned to their own countries."

Survey says Sunday workers back change in trading laws

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

SHOPPING on Sundays puts many customers into the hands of a new breed of employee, the Sunday-only shopworker, according to a survey that suggests a majority do not see any disadvantage to working on the Sabbath.

The largest-ever study of Sunday workers was commissioned by the Shopping Hours Reform Council, a retailer-based group lobbying for changes to Britain's Sunday trading legislation. The government is expected to publish by the end of this month its bill on reforming the trading laws. Although ministers remain wary of the issue, John Major wants to clarify the legislation this year and the government hopes to space for the bill will be found in the parliamentary timetable.

Ministers believe that widespread trading on Sundays by supermarkets and

DIY stores has increased the likelihood of new laws legitimising the practice, in spite of the opposition from churches and other groups.

The survey, carried out by the Institute for Retail Studies at Stirling University and published yesterday, studied 5,000 Sunday workers in such stores as Asda, Tesco, Do It All, Sainsbury, Tesco and B&Q. It found that the stores "rely heavily on a labour force that works every Sunday and has a contract of less than 10 hours". More than 85 per cent have no other jobs and more than 66 per cent are women. A third work for less than 10 hours a week.

The study says that 54 per cent see no disadvantages in working on a Sunday, though a substantial minority of 46 per cent do. Lack of time spent with a partner or children is the main disadvantage. Not having enough time to play or watch sport

was a disadvantage for 11 per cent, but only 2 per cent were concerned about not being able to go to church.

Most work on Sundays for the money, to supplement family income or as a form of financial independence for women, and almost half are paid double-time. Professor Leigh Sparks of Stirling University said: "There is a workforce here whose voice has not been heard, saying they want to work on Sundays and they are able to do it."

But Uday, the shopworkers' union, said the survey confirmed its experience that full-time staff and managers were reluctant to work on Sundays.

Bill Connor, deputy general secretary, said shopworkers should be entitled to legally enforceable rights to refuse to work on Sunday, and to receive double pay if they did.



Reading aid: Baroness Blatch said early progress on trials were encouraging

Remedial reading scheme to be expanded in inner cities

By John O'Leary, Education Correspondent

A REMEDIAL reading scheme imported from New Zealand is to be expanded as part of a £10 million package of support for inner-city schools, ministers said yesterday.

Primary schools in 20 areas are already testing the Reading Recovery programme on six-year-olds who have fallen behind. Extra teaching in small groups is expected to enable them to catch up within a year. Baroness Blatch, the education minister, said that early progress in the trials was encouraging, and support for the scheme would be increased next year from £3.6 million to £4.4 million.

The programme was announced in the run-up to last

year's general election, with government and Opposition spokesmen claiming to have discovered the scheme. Labour proposed spending £42 million on a national initiative, but ministers argued that a shortage of trained teachers made it impossible to do more than fund pilots.

Reading Recovery already took half of the money allocated through the government's inner-city fund for education and training. Most of the 38 authorities receiving grants will be continuing existing projects, many in City Challenge areas. The extra £3 million will fund new schemes targeting literacy, numeracy, English as a second language, technology and science, as well as encour-

aging greater parental involvement. Seven London authorities will be among the 18 to benefit for the first time.

Lady Blatch said: "I am pleased that a number of the new projects recognise the crucial role that parents have in supporting schools in raising standards in targeted areas of the curriculum."

□ Eric Forth, the schools minister, yesterday announced new measures to strengthen support for pupils with special educational needs. Amendments to the education bill would require schools to publish and report on their policies for teaching all their pupils who have special needs and allow local authorities to continue providing support services.

Labour dissidents use Clinton as a stalking-horse

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE debate about the Labour party's future is thick with coded language. *Tribune*, the left-wing weekly, put it succinctly in an editorial yesterday: "The current Labour row about what, if anything, the party should learn from Bill Clinton's American presidential victory is not really about Mr Clinton. Various prominent Labour figures are actually at each others' throats about what went wrong in the British general election last year and who is to blame."

The ferment reflects John Smith's low-key approach as Labour leader, which has allowed rival groups to battle for influence over a range of issues from electoral reform and the links with the unions, to the direction of policy.

The argument reflects deep-seated tensions in Labour history between modernisers who argue that the party must adapt to social changes and voters' views, and traditionalists who suspect unprincipled abandonment of socialist values. The predicament has been summed up by Peter Mandelson, a prominent moderniser: "The argument that having changed many of its policies and organisation between 1987-92 and still lost, the party should now reject further change is akin to blaming the electorate rather than ourselves for defeat — the show was great but the audience was poor."

"Clinton" has become a code word in a debate similar in some respects to the post-mortem after Labour's third successive defeat in 1959. The modernisers look to Mr Clinton's victory last November for lessons. Two of its leaders, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, have been in Washington this week and some of the president-elect's advisers will be in London this weekend for a conference organised by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The traditionalists, whose main spokesman this week has been John Prescott, charging in where others fear to tread, have questioned the relevance of the Clinton campaign.

Both groups have a point. There are lessons from the American experience, but they are limited. Advisers such as Philip Gould, co-

ordinator of Labour's Shadow Communications Agency who spent October in Little Rock with the Clinton team, seem at times to be treating the Democrat's victory as a successful replay of Labour's loss six months earlier. Comparisons are not so simple. Mr Clinton won largely because of the weaknesses of George Bush. The Democrat's economic policies contained more ambiguities than points of clarity.

The main pointers from America relate to strategy and positioning. Mr Gould and Patricia Hewitt of the Institute for Public Policy Research argue in the new journal *Renewal* that the central lessons are: forge an identity which synthesises values, vision and symbolic policies which appeal to the majority rather than minorities; engage party and politicians in a debate; start to transform the party's macho culture and abandon stereotypical political language; and tighten control over campaign management.

In short, Labour needs to demonstrate publicly that it has changed. A leaked report from David Hill, the party's director of communications, cites a private survey showing that Labour is still seen by the "aspirational working classes" as being on the side of losers, as the party of the past, untrustworthy, inexperienced and in favour of minorities, rather than the ordinary man or woman.

Most Labour MPs broadly accept this message. However, neither Mr Smith nor his moderniser allies have indicated what change means in practice. An understandable reluctance to be tied to premature commitments has resulted in a vagueness about discussing policy at all.

Short-term battles will be mainly about the structure of the party and links with the unions, as well as about electoral reform. On none of these points is the Clinton experience much help.

PETER RIDDELL

Leading article, page 15

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Unsold cars inflate market lead for Rover

By Kevin Eason and Tim Jones

AS MANY as 5,000 cars which boosted Rover's December sales tally may never have been in showrooms. The cars were registered by the company for its own use.

Motor industry officials puzzled by the company's December surge were last night breaking down statistics issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. They discovered that there could be a gap between sales and registrations. The gap is created by the fact that cars only have to be registered — not necessarily sold — to appear in the monthly figures.

Rover's spectacular jump to market leadership last month, which caused surprise throughout the industry, came because its registrations showed a 67.35 per cent increase over the same month last year.

Its December sales were 20,362, compared with a record 19,989 for Land Rover, 13,301 for Ford, 11,030 for GM-Vauxhall, 6,802 for Nissan, 1,401 for BMW and 150 for Jaguar Daimler.

Total sales for 1992 showed only a 0.08 per cent increase over the previous year, with sales at 1,593,601 compared with 1,592,326. The 1992 figures moved ahead only in the last ten days of December.

The monthly total, at 79,903, was 37.12 per cent ahead of December 1991, when registrations reached 58,274.

Sir Hal Miller, the society's chief executive, said the small annual increase "reinforces our belief that the home market is on its way to recovery and we are confident that this will continue on a more modest scale, throughout 1993. But this achievement must be seen in its true perspective because it is still 2.1 per cent behind 1990 and 3.1 per cent down on 1989."

Industry sources attribute the overall increase to a return of consumer confidence and the abolition of the special car tax.

Ford, which still retains a market lead for the whole year, attributed its percentage decline in December to ending production of the Sierra and the imminent launch of its Mondeo model.

However, cars registered to Rover and its parent company, British Aerospace, could account for up to 5 per cent of its market share in December. The practice is widespread among manufacturers who register cars in bulk to be used as dealer demonstrators, in promotional fleets or for business use. In times of recession when stocks are high, the trend has been to register more demonstrators and clear stocks.

One theory in the industry is that Rover was left with hundreds of cars which did not meet European environmental legislation on catalytic converters, which came into force on January 1. The recession left manufacturers with thousands of unequipped cars and it is thought Rover decided to register the cars in house rather than hold a "fire sale".

A Rover spokesman said: "There is little of significance apart from our own registrations to distort our performance. We are not trying to inflate our figures. It is just the way things worked out in December and we are not doing anything different to other manufacturers."

Much of Rover's increase is the result of aggressive discounting. It is understood to have hired telephone sales staff to contact thousands of small firms.

Ford has started a similar sales campaign to make way for the Mondeo, which it hopes will turn round three years of huge financial losses and redundancies. Ford lost £590 million in 1991 and announced 4,000 redundancies at the end of last year.

"How much this feverish sales activity has made December a blip on the sales charts rather than the signal for a recovery remains to be seen," Neil Marshall, chief economist at the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said. "There are plenty of deals around because the manufacturers are desperate to make sales, but the trend is up and we can only hope that continues."



Bad taste of paradise: holiday brochures too often feature young white people, with locals portrayed as "smiling servants or sexual lures"

Colonialism lives on for Caribbean tourists

By Julia Llewellyn Smith

TOURISTS in the Caribbean treat the islands as if they are still colonies, the annual conference of the Institute of Geographers was told yesterday. They come for sun, sea, sand and sex and see the indigenous people as servile natives there to cater for every whim, said Brian Holcomb of Rutgers University in New Jersey, America.

More than ten million tourists visit the Caribbean every year and the industry makes up nearly 80 per cent of the gross national product of places such as the Bahamas and Cayman Islands. Yet up to 80 per cent of the tourism income does not go into the local economy, as most visitors travel with non-Caribbean airlines and stay in hotels belonging to multinational groups.

Dr Holcomb, of the university's department of urban studies and community health, said holiday brochures for the Caribbean usually used images of young, slim, white couples.

"Local people are mainly smiling servants or sexual lures. The history of plantations and slavery is silenced in favour of nostalgic romance," she told the conference at Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey.

"The tourists stay in little islands of luxury in seas of poverty. My sense is that tourists enjoy the idea of going back to the happy colonial days and not feeling bad about it."

The tourist industry in the Highlands has a more practical problem. It is under threat from the biting midge, which has seen a large increase in numbers during the past 100 years because of changes in land use and the climate.

Alasdair Roberts of the Northern College, Aberdeen, told the conference that literary evidence showed midges were rarely seen in Scotland before the mid-19th century. Robert Burns refers to them in his poetry only in terms of their irritation factor. But in

and wet weather had also encouraged them to breed. Airport planning that takes too much account of environmental considerations and the feelings of residents is a recipe for failure, said Stan Maiden, a research director at BAA. He claimed that the British civil

aviation industry would be severely affected if the wishes of airlines and passengers were ignored.

A fifth terminal is planned at Heathrow, already the biggest international airport, because BAA believes that passengers may abandon British airports and aircraft altogether if they cannot fly to and from this destination.

"Any plans for developing new terminal capacity in the South East which ignore the strength of the locational pull exerted by Heathrow will seriously undermine the relative strength of the UK civil aviation industry and all those sectors of the UK economy which will benefit from it," Mr Maiden said.

Over the past 34 years energy policies of successive British governments have been largely characterised by Canute-like attempts to prevent the inevitable, the ultimate near demise of the UK deep-mined coal industry, Professor Odell said.

But Dr Derek Spooner, of the School of Geography and Earth Resources at Hull University, said it would be irresponsible to abandon the coal industry at this point.

'No risk' in epilepsy triggered by video

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Services Correspondent

SITTING in front of the television screen playing a computer game is the safest place to have an epileptic fit, a specialist said after it emerged that three teenagers had been treated at Cardiff Royal Infirmary since Christmas following fits triggered by the games.

About one in 250 children is susceptible to fits induced by intense flashing lights, although far fewer would be disturbed by a flickering video game, according to Dr Richard Grunewald, research fellow at the Institute of Neurology in London. Many children grow out of it.

Dr Grunewald said that for two of the Cardiff teenagers who had no family history of epilepsy, the games had proved a useful diagnostic device. "It is unlikely that anyone having a fit in front of a TV screen would come to any harm. It does no damage to the brain and it is probably the safest place in the world to have a seizure. It is certainly better to discover that you are susceptible at home than behind the wheel of a car."

Anyone having a fit after playing the games should stop using them and consult their doctor, he said.

The games' leading manufacturers, Sega and Nintendo, already include warnings with the games, but the British Epilepsy Association said they should be printed more prominently, on the outside of the packaging. The warnings say that the light patterns on the games may induce an epileptic seizure.

The association had reassurance for parents. "All children want these games and we think it is too small a problem to deny them," a spokeswoman said. "Children with epilepsy should be treated as far as possible like other children."

Computer games can cause a seizure in sensitive people because their flicker rate is low and they are designed for players sitting close to the screen. Sufferers can avoid the problem when watching television by sitting far away, using the remote control and closing one eye if they approach the set.

TOP TEN CARS

December 1992 sales

Rover 200 Series	20,362
Rover Metro	13,301
Ford Escort	11,030
Vauxhall Cavalier	6,802
Ford Fiesta	6,802
Vauxhall Astra	3,987
Nissan Micra	2,890
Ford Sierra	2,757
Peugeot 405 Series	2,123
Rover 400 Series	2,085

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RSPCA RSPCA

Winter's house sale figures confirm rise

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

SALES of new homes showed a steady rise during the past three months, adding to hopes that house prices may finally be stabilising.

The National House Building Council (NHBC) has issued figures showing that a daily average of 490 sales in September rose to a daily average of 530 for November and 555 for December. Basil Bean, the NHBC's chief executive, said: "There is a glimmer that the market is improving."

The first hints from estate agents that the market was picking up were reported at the end of last year after an unexpected pre-Christmas boom made December the busiest month the depressed trade has known for at least three years. Michael Jones, president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said agents were positive throughout the country about renewed interest from buyers.

House prices — which fell 8.4 per cent in 1992 — and new building starts are still at

historically low levels, however. Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said: "This is further damning evidence of the fraud which Major pulled on the electorate in April. The promise could not have been clearer — 'Our policies will mean a stronger housing market'. It was a reckless falsehood."

The NHBC said that only 26,400 homes were built in the last three months of last year, the lowest total since 1981. Nearly 7,000 of those were for public housing for those on low incomes, further evidence of the collapse of the speculative housing market. A total of 126,000 new homes were built during 1992.

The NHBC figures show that while housing starts are down, it is the best time to buy for more than 20 years.

The Nationwide Building Society's December house price index showed only a slight fall of 0.2 per cent compared to a 2.0 per cent fall in November and a 2.7 per cent fall in October.



YESTERDAY I turned my attention to Rolf Harris's merry new recording of the old Led Zeppelin number "Swainway to Heaven".

re-recordings have dominated the charts for a good few years.

Advertisers were the first to realise the potential of pop to become a lucrative adjunct to the nostalgia industry. The strong association of certain pop songs with earlier, more innocent times was able to exert a powerful pull on potential consumers.

A friend of mine in advertising tells me of two copywriters notorious for basing campaigns on old pop songs. Given a new

product, they would immediately sift through The Guinness Book of Hit Singles for an appropriate tune.

This somewhat lazy method soon began to irritate their colleagues, who hatched a plot to unsettle them. Knowing that they would be promoting Lurpak butter, their colleagues reprinted an entire page of the book, ascribing a very minor hit called "Lurpak" (two weeks at No 17) to the Dave Clark Five in 1966. For weeks, the pair scoured old record stores and libraries for "Lurpak" by The Dave Clark Five, but to no avail. Eventually their colleagues told them of their cruel joke.

I'd like to report that they never again used a pop song in their advertisements, but I rather doubt it. Knowing as men it seems more likely that they managed to persuade the manufacturers to change the name of Lurpak to "Gladaflower" and took it from there.

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Warring tribes mark brutal Christmas in city of tears

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BANJA LUKA

BANJA Luka has a rock band called Honeybees. In their video the Honeybees, in the uniform of the Bosnian Serb army, pose on tanks and rock to the beat of "We gotta show the world that this is a hard nut to crack". For the Croats and Muslims who still live in this Bosnian Serb stronghold, the act is no joke. Banja Luka, where temperatures fall as low as -20C, is no ordinary armed camp. It is the strangest place in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is the last main town under Serb control in which the Croat and Muslim communities remain. It is a city of tears and

Banja Luka is the last key Bosnian town under Serb control in which Croat and Muslim communities remain. Many fear intervention would release an inferno

chance. An old woman burst into tears and said: "They broke my windows. There has been no electricity for seven days but my friend gives me wood." Her friend said: "We are celebrating the Serbian Christmas today, we already did the Catholic one." Her husband is a Serb and their two sons are on the front line. "What could they do," she said. "If they refused they would have lost their jobs, we

ished his tombstone yesterday morning. His portrait is engraved between theirs. Dragan Budic, 24 when he died, is pictured on top of a tank. Dragan Budic's wife has engraved on the back of his stone: "You will be with me always." Her name is Azra. It is a Muslim name. Before the war the population of Banja Luka was 120,000. Roughly half were Serbs, a quarter each were Muslims and Croats. According to Bert Schweizer, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 20,000 Serbs have fled but at least as many have arrived, refugees from Croatia and parts of Bosnia controlled by

Muslims and Croats. Half the Croats have fled and while 10,000 Muslims have gone another 10,000 are thought to have arrived, in flight from "ethnic cleansing" in the countryside and small towns around Banja Luka. "This town is walking on the edge," Mr Schweizer said. "I've thought many times that they would move on the non-Serbs and people are very afraid, but the 'big thing' has never happened. There are incidents every day but the authorities try to keep the tension down. They know it is important for their reputation that nothing happens." According to Mr Schweizer, the biggest fear of Muslims is military intervention. "They think it would unleash the ultimate inferno." Officially, at least, Muslim leaders are putting a brave face on things. "Tell Europe that I want to die in my home not as a refugee, as a dog," Nijaz Karaselmovic, the local president of Bosnia's Muslim humanitarian organisation, Merhamet, says. Most Muslims and Croats quite simply cannot leave now even if they wanted to. Croatia is letting few people in, doors across Europe are closed and the Bosnian Serb Republic requires at least ten documents from those seeking to move. They include papers stating that they have paid the television licence and have no outstanding library fines. Even the trees of Banja Luka speak of the tragedy of this war. Apart from the death notices hundreds of little handwritten notes advertise for flat swaps. The towns they name are the dismal list of places from where Serbs have fled. Muslims and Croats from Banja Luka pin up their pathetic notes, too. One assures prospective buyers that the village which he seeks to leave is a Serb one. Few Serbs in Banja Luka think the war is close to finishing. "All we want is our freedom," one soldier said. "As far as I am concerned this is 1939."

UN's Bosnian aid effort 'is reaching its limits'

BY JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MANY people could die of old and hunger in Bosnia-Herzegovina this winter, the director of United Nations relief operations in former Yugoslavia said yesterday, despite what he considered an unexpectedly high level of success for the UN aid effort. "We are reaching the limits of what can be expected from the humanitarian solution," Jose Maria Mendiluce, the envoy of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, said. People in many areas of the republic were not at risk, but many would die in the large areas occupied, or encircled, by Serbian forces. "If this situation does not change dramatically in the year future, many people are at serious risk of dying from exposure or starvation," Mr Mendiluce said at a press conference in Sarajevo. Mr Mendiluce's remarks underscored criticism from Sarajevans that the civilian population simply cannot wait for a negotiated settlement which almost everyone in the Bosnian capital, including some UN officials, feels will come. The comments also highlighted what appears to be the new strategy of the Bosnian Serbs. Particularly around Sarajevo, where they hold unquestioned military superiority, the Serbs have shifted to defensive positions and are allowing the winter to take a greater role in making life in the city unbearable and putting pressure on the Bosnian government to capitulate. There has been far less shelling of Sarajevo and sniper activity since winter began, but life there is becoming increasingly desperate in the freezing temperatures. Yesterday, Serb forces



Reclaiming tradition: Aleksii, Russian Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow and of All Russia, conducting the Christmas liturgy in Moscow early yesterday. President Yeltsin joined the many Russians who are seeking new values to replace vanished communist ones

Patriarch rejects papal offer

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Pavle, has declined to attend a meeting of European church leaders led by the Pope who will gather at Assisi tomorrow to pray for peace in the Balkans and other areas. Dr Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, said the Holy See also had been told that the Archbishop of Canterbury was unable to take part in the ceremonies for family reasons. The Church of England will be represented by Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York. There is speculation in diplomatic circles that Lambeth Palace may wish to distance itself from the strident calls by the Vatican over the past few weeks for the West to intervene militarily to disarm the Serbs. In a letter to the Pope, Patriarch Pavle said that "the fact of not being able to come should not be interpreted in any way as wanting to refuse a fraternal hand". European Muslim and Jewish leaders will take part in the meeting.

German jobless increase

FROM MICHAEL BUNYON IN BONN

THE number of people unemployed in former West Germany rose above the psychologically critical mark of two million at the end of last year, confirming forecasts by economic experts that the German economy was moving into deep recession. Unemployment in former East Germany remained almost stagnant, with only a slight increase to bring the total to 1.1 million people, or about 13.9 per cent, according to figures issued yesterday by the federal labour office in Nuremberg. In former West Germany, the rate rose from 6.9 to 7.4 per cent, with the jobless total rising by 300,000 over the year. Heinrich Franks, the retiring president of the labour office, admitted that the increase was more than seasonal. Short-time working has gone up fivefold in the past four months, while the number of job vacancies fell by nearly 9,000 compared with the previous year. The gloomy figures came a day after a Berlin research institute spoke of an "economic fiasco" facing the country and said Germany was on the brink of a disaster. The recession in the west, it added, was having a devastating effect on the five Länder, or provinces, of former East Germany.

Warsaw moves towards more restricted access to abortion

BY PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Polish parliament yesterday approved legislation restricting a woman's access to an abortion in the heavily Catholic country, but abortion opponents pledged last night that they will seek a stricter version when the bill comes before the senate. The Sejm passed the bill by 213 votes to 171, with 29 abstentions. In the latest stage of a four-year battle led by the Christian National Alliance party and backed by the powerful Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Poland's primate, called the bill "a compromise" opening the way for improving the nation's morality. "This is a step forward in defence of the life of the unborn," he said. If it becomes law, the measure would replace a 1956 communist-era statute permitting abortion virtually on demand. Government figures estimate 100,000 women terminate pregnancies annually in Poland, which has a population of 39 million, but the church claims the figure is closer to one million. The Christian party's bill would have permitted abortions only when the woman's life is in danger and it imposed prison terms of up to ten years for anyone helping a woman obtain an abortion. That would be the toughest anti-abortion law in Europe, exceeding even the Republic of Ireland's, the Irish law permits exceptions only when the expectant mother threatens suicide but it does not contain criminal sanctions. But the Polish anti-abortion bill was heavily liberalised by amendments allowing abortions when the pregnancy is the result of incest or rape, or when pre-natal tests indicate the foetus is grossly deformed, and when there is serious danger to the life or health of the mother. Abortion will be allowed only in public hospitals, requiring doctors to obtain certificates supporting their diagnosis from two other independent doctors. In cases of crime, the woman will have to seek authorisation from the prosecutor's office. In another significant concession, the woman would not be subject to criminal penalties, nor would the doctor performing an abortion, in the circumstances outlined in the bill. But the amended legislation still provides penalties of up to two years in prison for unspecified persons aiding in cases of illegal abortion. The Sejm also approved amendments requiring sex education in schools, maternity leave and special aid for pregnant students, and wider availability of contraceptives—all anathema to the church. The billfront now moves to the Senate, probably on January 18. It is expected to reject many of the amendments adopted by the lower house. Neither side was entirely satisfied with the draft. Hanna Suchocka, the prime minister, anxious not to be seen to be taking sides, left the chamber before the vote. Stefan Niesiolowski, leader of the Christian alliance parliamentary caucus, said many party deputies voted for the liberalised bill simply to get the 1956 law off the books. "What tipped the balance was the fact that our party wants to give the Senate the chance to amend the bill according to our expectations, and the fact that we want the 1956 law, which is the greatest evil, to stop being effective," he added. "It is a shame that people voted for allowing the killing in certain cases." "It's a step in the right direction, but I'm counting on the Senate to change it," said Jan Lopuzanski, of the Christian Union. Jozef Oleksy, the former Communist deputy, said the bill was "true" as only "cosmetic" changes were introduced. "This is another step towards a religious state," he said. Earlier, the Sejm rejected a motion to hold a public referendum on abortion. Barbara Labuda, of the liberal Democratic Union, said she would continue to campaign for Poles to choose the shape of the new law themselves. About one million people have signed petitions demanding a vote.

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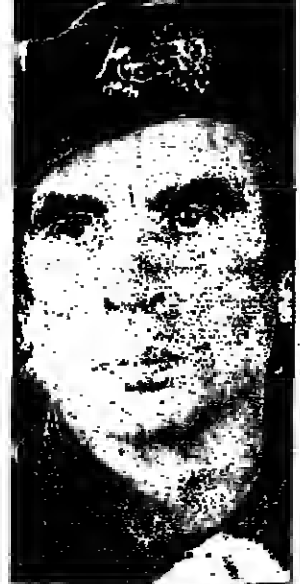
Few Russians mourn the son they can hardly remember

FROM ANNE MCELVOY AND GUY CHAZAN IN MOSCOW

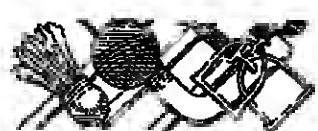
MOURNING for Rudolf Nureyev was muted in Russia yesterday. For Western ballet lovers he was synonymous with the elegance and passion of Russian ballet; in his native land, which consigned him to the status of an unperson for 26 years after his defection in 1961, he was barely known outside the cognoscenti. His memory among those admirers who for a quarter of a century relied on whispered news of their idol's triumphs will always be clouded by the pain of the last years. As one critic wrote of his last performance in St Petersburg: "Our ovations were addressed to the past—to one of our own who was unfamiliar to us." Many Russians even did not

know who he is and regard Mikhail Barishnikov, who was better known when he went to the West in 1974, as their most famous dancer. Nureyev was just 23 when he flung himself into the arms of French customs officials, and had been dancing professionally for only three years. Spotted after winning a national ballet contest in Moscow while training in the remote Urals city of Ufa, he was offered soloist positions at the Bolshoi and at the Kirov in St Petersburg. He chose the Kirov, regarded as the country's second ballet in terms of prestige but, by purists as superior in technique. Nureyev, having learnt from a stunged magazine that Western dancers wore tight

leggings rather than the unyielding Russian layers, decided to go on stage in his long-johns. "The dresser was shrieking on the internal phone to the director, 'He wants to go on naked. What shall we do?' They let him go on. 'I cried and cried the day he defected,' she said. 'But it was the best thing for his dancing. He was so stifled here.' She will travel to his funeral with other Russian devotees and former partners. Oleg Vinogradov, the Kirov's artistic director, who studied with Nureyev at St Petersburg's Vaganova school, said he was deeply saddened at the death of a friend and exceptional person. 'Like many early friends, he was able to con-



Nureyev: an unperson since 1961 defection



SPORTING LIFE



Have you read any good maps lately?

Thirteen years ago Nicky Henson found himself a "Saturday father" or, more precisely, because he was a successful West End actor, a "Sunday father", and was faced with the weekly challenge of how to entertain two energetic boys, then aged nine and 12.

"You spend your life thinking of things to do, something that won't spoil them but that they will look forward to," he says. "I had never heard of orienteering until Joe, my youngest, saw something on *Blue Peter*. I dutifully rang Kiddline, the children's information service, who gave me the number of my nearest group, which happened to be the Middlesex Orienteers."

"The thing that immediately appealed to me about orienteering is that it isn't a fitness sport. It's not about speed. The winner is the better map reader, or rather the person with the better map."

Orienteering is the shanks's pony equivalent of point-to-pointing. It's map reading with intelligence; navigating for the landlubber. Whereas even a love-sick teenager realises that the quickest route across a river is via a bridge, it takes an experienced map reader to work out that the best way across a valley may not be down and up but round the rim.

"Although obviously the idea is to complete the course as quickly as possible, orienteering is not a first-past-the-post sport. You're let loose at intervals. Only when everyone has finished do you find out how you've done, so you don't get a chance to feel downhearted."

Proof that you have completed the course is obtained by punching a special card at the various strategically placed "controls".

"You don't have to visit the controls in any particular order," Henson says. "Part of the skill is looking at the map, knowing how difficult the terrain is and planning: thinking 'I'll do this one first, then that one, avoiding that fence, avoiding that valley, taking that ridge'."

"You get to recognise clues for the landscape. As it happens, I wasn't a bad map reader to start with — I had done it at school in the Corps. But for Joe and Christian it was a great way of learning to visualise a place just by looking at a map. A very valuable skill."

Apart from sharp wits, the

essential piece of equipment is a compass. It's all too easy in a wood, for example, to lose one's sense of direction. "Needless to say, they don't make it obvious. You have to be very precise. The control is usually just a stick in the ground which you could pass within a few feet of and miss."

As with any sport, there are different levels and standards of difficulty. The youngest official class is for under tens and the oldest is for over 70s. The easiest courses cover not much more than a mile, but serious adult orienteers should not expect to put their feet up before covering six or eight miles.

The majority of orienteers compete individually, but an advantage for those with small children is that orienteering, which began in Sweden, also allows family teams. "You work as a unit. One reads the

The actor Nicky Henson has, he tells Penelope Denning, every time he takes to the woods to go orienteering

map, one takes compass readings, and so on. It was a perfect way of combining fresh air, competition and just being together. And we had a ball doing it."

Events organised by local clubs are generally very informal and visitors are always welcome. Meetings tend to take place on Sunday morn-

ings or weekday evenings in the summer, anywhere from the large London commons or local beauty spots to the national parks.

Whatever the level — local, national or international — the rules are the same. The clock starts and the next competitor to go rushes to the master map and as quickly as possible transfers the information about where controls are to be found on to his or her personal map. Then, before you can say Anika Rice, it's up and away.

"Obviously the less you have to stop and look at the map the better, so it is important to develop a good map memory. Certainly as a beginner you tend to make for an obvious point, something that is visible from where you are. A hilltop, or a church, say."

"Eventually, you get better at judging just where controls have probably been put. The

DENZIL MCNEEL/ALICE



They went that way: Nicky Henson with his sons Kenton, aged five, and Christian, 20

one thing you do learn very quickly is that the straightforward way to the control is usually not the best. There's sure to be a stream or a fence or a clump of bushes that you can't get through. It's all part of the fun."

For the seriously fit, orienteering offers the challenge of navigating over complex and rough ground while running at speed. For the less keen, or less agile, it's a painless way of staying fit and exploring parts of the countryside you might otherwise never get to see. It's also cheap as sporting activities go. Entry fees for small local events are usually around £1, half that for juniors.

In addition to local events, there are about 150 permanent orienteering courses around the country run by the British Orienteering Association, which provide a pressure-free introduction. Just buy an information pack and map, usually available locally, and set off at your own pace.

Henson is the first to admit that he is not terribly competitive. "The sports I like best are those where you're really competing against yourself, like swimming and snooker. The great thing about orienteering is that it's as difficult and as competitive as you want to make it."

"And I must admit there's a certain amount of gamesmanship, especially if you do it as a family at the level we did, like pretending you haven't found the control, or even laying a false scent for others by pretending you have. All thoroughly frowned upon by serious competitors, of course."

Joe and Christian are now grown up, but Henson also has five-year-old Kenton (by his second marriage to former Royal Ballet principal dancer Marguerite Porter). Does he intend donning his anorak and trainers again to initiate his youngest into the secrets of map and compass?

"Absolutely. Beats the Natural History Museum any day. I don't know if orienteering is in the Olympics, but it should be. It's a jolly good sport."

British Orienteering Federation, Riverside, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HX (0629 734042). Membership of individual clubs varies; family membership is about £20 a year, junior about £3, senior about £15. The specialist magazine is *Compass Sport*, 25 The Hermitage, Elliot Hill, London SE13 7EH (081-852 1457). Kidline is on 071-222 8070.

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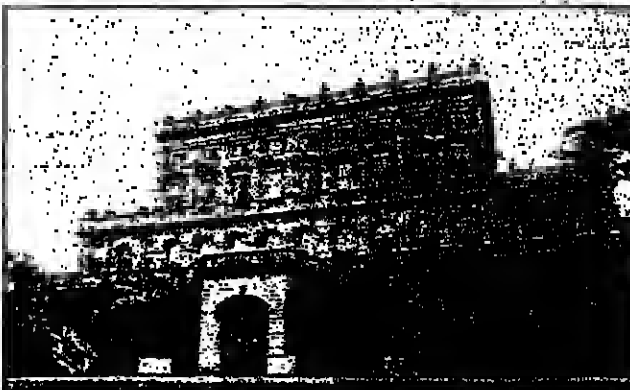
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In the golf shoes of the great

Cliveden offers a lordly welcome and much more than just a round of golf

JULIAN HERBERT



Stately: Cliveden was host to politicians and potentates

Under the eye of Nigel Taylor, the manager, and his staff of 100, the mansion murmurs to the quiet chat and laughter of paying guests, the swish of heavy drapes, the tinkle of decanters and clinking of coffee cups.

Heritage purists may balk at the idea of the nation's treasures to become a sumptuous 28-room hotel, but Mr Taylor counters such views with a quote from the late Earl of Stockton, the former prime minister Harold Macmillan. On being told by an astounded associate that Cliveden was to be turned into a hotel, the

earl replied: "But, my dear boy, it always has been."

The advantage of Cliveden for a golfing weekend is its cluster of courses, including the world famous Sunningdale, many of which are an easy drive away.

The house, which is on the Berkshire-Buckinghamshire border, is also easily accessible from London, and Heathrow airport is about 15 minutes away by car. Lambourne, the nearest course and one for which Cliveden can arrange green fees, is about three miles away, down country lanes.

Unlike many such new ventures, which invariably sport pigny trees and shrubs, Lambourne has mature trees

and hedges. The fairways rosy still await the careful tending of time, but the house's designer has carved out stylish acres, elegant green and flower-filled water garden, makeshift clubhouse has been erected, but Bon Newman, Lambourne's director of golf, says a new, elegant building will be ready early this year.

"Clearly not everyone is beating a path to Cliveden merely for a weekend round of golf. The guest book reveals that many visitors are apparently Americans or honeymooners with more than 1st pitch and putt on their minds."

For such guests there are romantic walks, including stroll in the 375-acre grounds among Roman sarcophagi, a terrapin-adorned fountain, rose garden and memorial garden.

Downstairs, Cliveden's restaurant offers a candlelit, bistrot-style atmosphere and a recently awarded Michelin star. The food is nouvelle but its contrasts neatly with the house, which have a gamey, English flavour.

There is an outdoor swimming pool, as well as squash and indoor tennis facilities. Cliveden's stable block, has been turned into an equestrian centre, bristling with about 60,000 of high-tech rowing, running and fitness machines.

The hotel is keen to bury its former reputation as an awayday for would-be lords and ladies and he very rich. Mr Taylor says he now offer a special night rate of £155 per person. This assumes a minimum two-night stay but includes dinner, house wine and full use of sporting and leisure facilities.

For those unaccustomed to hand-and-foot service, the attentiveness of the staff can also require some behavioural adjustments. Trying to speed away to meet in tea-off time, my brother appeared to be straining to carry his bag to the car. A quick glance revealed that he was carrying along not only his luggage but also one of the porters, determined fully to meet his job description.

NICK NUTTALL



Nick Nuttall in action

Where to be at tee time

- Hotels with or near 9 and 18 hole golf courses. Some have special winter weekend and golf packages. Cliveden, Sunningdale, and other courses offer winter packages.
- Cliveden, Taplow, Berkshire (0628 866661). Double rooms from £215. Dinner from £50. Golf £60.
- Cameron House Hotel and Country Estate, Leamington, Warwickshire (0922 822125). Single rooms from £115. Double from £130. Duty golf rate £14. Dinner £10-15.
- Mottram Hall Hotel, Whitby Road, Whitby, North Yorkshire (0924 822125). Single rooms from £115. Double from £140. Golf from £15. Dinner from £22.
- Seckford Hall, Woodbridge, Suffolk (0504 350754). Single rooms from £75. Double from £90. Dinner from £22. Duty golf rate £10.
- Mill at Glynch, Mendips, Somerset (0924 822125). Double rooms from £25-£30 per person including breakfast. Price includes dinner and breakfast.

American tanks destroy Somali warlord's arms dump

■ The marines have finally attacked Mogadishu's bandits. The action signals their willingness to be more active in future

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN forces yesterday launched their biggest attack on armed militias since they arrived in Somalia a month ago, firing anti-tank rockets and machine guns into an armoury held by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, southern Somalia's main warlord.

The American assault began on Wednesday night when the American-led forces said that marines surrounded some warehouses and warned the militiamen that they would be attacked at dawn if they did not surrender. When the hour came American snipers saw a group of Somalis with an anti-aircraft gun and shot them. Soon after, the gunmen launched heavy volleys of machinegun fire at Cobra AH1 helicopters hovering overhead. The Americans responded by launching anti-tank missiles and bursts from their more powerful 20mm machine guns.

In an attempt to scare the Somalis into the open, psy-ops (psychological operations) soldiers shouted warnings in Somali over loudspeakers. "You have five minutes to get out or you will be burnt," the message said.

The attack on the compound came after a series of blazes in the city and amid increasing criticism from aid workers in the Somali capital that the security situation had deteriorated since the arrival of the American-led task force on December 9.

American forces used M-1 tanks for the first time in combat during yesterday's assault. They laid down covering fire for about 400 marines who swept through the net-



work of warehouses and captured tanks, heavy artillery pieces and a dozen four-wheel drive battle wagons, known locally as technicals.

"We hit them with a firestorm," Major General Charles Wilhelm, commander of the 1st Marine Division, said after the 20-minute battle yesterday. He said the assault was ordered after it was determined that sniper fire was coming from two areas to which General Aidid's forces had agreed to move weapons after Operation Restore Hope began in a deal struck with Robert Oakley, the American special envoy to Somalia.

Marines said that the compound appeared to be leaderless but the gunmen fired anti-aircraft guns and lighter weapons on infantry as well as at the Cobra helicopters.

The display of firepower by the Americans is an important change in their operational policy in Somalia and was a fulfilment of a commitment Washington made earlier this week to "get tough" with the bandit elements that are the

root cause of the famine in Somalia, which has taken 350,000 lives in the past year.

General Aidid was attending peace talks sponsored by the United Nations in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, yesterday at which a group allied with his main rival, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, who controls north Mogadishu, called for the complete disarmament of the country.

Ali Mahdi, a putative interim president, has long called for military intervention in Somalia as much to boost his own legitimacy as in recognition of the need to separate the warring factions. His part of Mogadishu remains the most lawless area in the country and foreign troops have yet to penetrate the area effectively.

At least 13 Somali gunmen were taken prisoner during the attack on General Aidid's compound, but Major General Wilhelm said that he did not know how many had died nor how many had originally been there. A marine was injured during the assault by "friendly fire". While troops were attacking the two arsenals, a Care relief lorry in south Mogadishu was fired on and hijacked by bandits, Mark Thomas, for the relief agency, said. The two Somali occupants were wounded.

Although Washington officials and local military commanders have said that they did not want American troops to get involved in policing Somalia and that they hoped that the task force would be replaced by a more permanent UN peacekeeping operation in a few months, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, and relief agen-



Prisoners' lot: gunmen sitting handcuffed after being arrested by US Marines who stormed an armoury compound in Mogadishu yesterday

cies have insisted that the Americans should expand their mandate to include the total disarmament of the country.

The multinational troops have previously refrained from large-scale confiscations of arms from the militias, but yesterday's operation signalled that from now on they are likely to be more active. In recent weeks local Somalis, children as much as gunmen, have enjoyed pushing marines as far as they could, sure in the knowledge that they were unlikely to be punished.

Earlier this week Lieutenant Colonel Fred Peck, a marines

spokesman, said that attempts to steal from soldiers on patrol and even from armoured vehicles had started to increase. He said that after a meeting with representatives of General Aidid's clan they had appeared to be contrite over the failure of their men to surrender the armoury. "They were an ill disciplined lot, that was

the excuse offered. We are expecting them to keep control over their own men," the colonel said.

At the Addis Ababa meeting, some Somali faction leaders said last night they feared General Aidid's militias might respond by firing on American troops in an attempt to provoke a general crackdown

on all militias. The groups that issued the disarmament call are loosely aligned with Ali Mahdi. General Aidid's refusal to agree on a date for a full peace conference has blocked progress at the talks.

Conference sources in Addis Ababa said that General Aidid's supporters appeared set against attending a full

peace conference before issues such as who would control what territory were solved. The general also demands a ceasefire and restoration of security across the country before peace talks, but his opponents say that would allow him to consolidate his control over areas his forces have captured.



Owada: took months to change her mind

Prince was rejected first time

FROM REUTERS, IN TOKYO

CROWN Prince Naruhito was rejected when he proposed to Masako Owada, 29, a diplomat, beside a wild goose pond and it took her nearly three months to change her mind, the *Yomiuri Shinbun* reported yesterday.

"I am extremely glad," Kihiko Miyazawa, the prime minister, said of the engagement between the prince and Miss Owada, daughter of a vice foreign minister, although the official announcement has yet to be made.

Crown Prince Naruhito, 32, and Miss Owada first met in October 1986. Last October, the two spent an afternoon alone by the pond. As the sun set, Miss Owada hinted that she might reject the prince. The Owada family rejected him on October 23.

She finally accepted him on December 29. The wedding is expected in May.

Joanna Pitman, page 14

Angola forces claim fall of rebels' supply centre

BY SAM KILEY

FIGHTING between Angolan government forces and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) continued yesterday in the southern cities of Benguela and Lobito, and government forces launched an offensive on rebel positions in Cuito in the central highlands.

Diplomatic and military sources in the Angolan capital, Luanda, said yesterday that 1,000 people had been killed in the south in two days of heavy fighting. A Western diplomat said: "There is also a major push-up going on right now in Cuito, but the government have not said much about that — either because things are not going their way, or because of bad communications. We know it has been a large-scale battle and government tanks may have been involved, along with the aircraft which have been in evidence elsewhere."

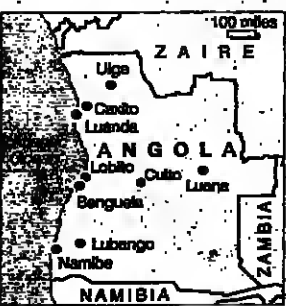
Although Jonas Savimbi, the leader of Unita, was criticised for pulling out of Angola's first multiparty elections losing to President dos Santos in the first round of the presidential race last September, much of the blame for the recent upsurge in fighting has been laid on the government.

One senior diplomat said that "most quarters believe this is a planned counter attack by the government".

There has been fighting in at least 12 cities across the country since the weekend and yesterday the government's media claimed that its forces had captured the Unita stronghold of Lobito. Should this be confirmed it will be a serious blow to Unita which receives much of its supplies

through Lobito's port and by road through Lubango, which fell to government soldiers earlier in the week.

Margaret Anstee, head of the United Nations mission to Angola, said yesterday that she was trying to bring both sides back to the negotiating table. "This is not yet a civil war but very near the verge," said Miss Anstee. Dr Savimbi and Mr dos Santos have signalled that they would be prepared to meet to discuss a ceasefire but few diplomats thought this likely. One said: "The problem is that neither side is prepared to trust the other and whenever they get close to meeting, the hatred of 16 years of civil war bubbles to the surface and we are sent back into a vicious circle of violence."



The Angolan civil war officially came to an end in May 1991 when Soviet and Cuban aid to the once Marxist government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola dried up and American and South African backing for Unita fell away. The country enjoyed 18 months of relative peace that ended soon after September's elections. Unita said the polls had been

rigged, but the UN certified them as free and fair.

Luanda was quiet yesterday — government action against Unita removed them from the capital last October — but the government claimed to have recaptured Caxito, 40 miles north of the capital, and Ndalatando to the east.

The government's offensive on these towns as well as Uige in the far north, and towns such as Namibe on the Namibian border, represents the army's attempts to regain ground lost after the election, when Unita seized 70 per cent of the country.

Military sources said yesterday that as both sides were overextended and there were no signs of either side being resupplied, a stalemate was inevitable. One UN official said: "The depressing thing is that they will probably go on for a year while thousands of Angolans are killed and maimed, and then will have to get back to the negotiating table after they have bled themselves dry."

The UN mandate in Angola expires at the end of this month and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, would need the agreement of both sides to extend its operation. Although diplomats said yesterday that they would like to see armed UN intervention to prevent Angola sliding into Somalia-style chaos, Dr Boutros Ghali has made his frustration with Angola's leaders clear. "He probably will try to extend the mandate but his patience is running out. It's a pity the victims of this civil war won't be the perpetrators but the innocent," said a Western ambassador.

UN envoy courts Sihanouk in Peking

FROM JAMES PRINGLE, IN HONG KONG

Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations peace effort in Cambodia, is a man noted for his sensitivity. He will need all his diplomatic charm when he meets Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Peking to persuade the former monarch to return to Cambodia and help the ailing peace effort from degenerating into renewed war.

The prince has been in China since November, both for medical treatment and to escape the frustration of UN-brokered negotiations between the four factions that signed the 1991 Paris peace agreements. He is chairman of a council linking the factions, but has decided to stop co-operating with the UN Transitional Authority (Unita) in Cambodia.

The former monarch, 70, is a toughy man sensitive about his status, but he is also the only man with sufficient authority and acceptance by older factions and the international commun-

ity to make the tortuous process work. Prince Sihanouk said his reason for severing ties with Unita was that it was unable to stop violence against opposition parties in Cambodia. Nine members of Funcinpec, the party led by his son, Prince Ranariddh, have been killed. Not only is the Khmer Rouge not participating in the process, the costliest undertaken by the UN, it has also refused to disarm and has attacked UN personnel.

The Phnom Penh government set up by the invading Vietnamese in early 1979 has been perpetrating human rights abuses against the two non-communist factions which will participate in elections scheduled for May. Almost five million people have now registered to vote in the election.

Diplomats see the situation as serious but not desperate. The fighting is part of a low-intensity war, with skirmishes and shelling rather than set-piece battles. The upsurge of fighting at the start of the dry season is an annual ritual and is

in only four of Cambodia's 21 provinces. Envoys say the Khmer Rouge is not nearly as strong as many believe, and lacks popular support. At the same time, its potential long-term threat should not be dismissed. Mr Akashi said this week of the fighting: "Our best assessment is that it will not become a serious nationwide offensive. We feel neither side has the capacity to organise such an operation."

The Khmer Rouge has until January 31 to join the process leading to elections. Diplomats believe that they might participate at the last moment. Otherwise they risk being marginalised. Asked if the peace process could succeed without the prince's co-operation, Mr Akashi diplomatically responded: "Certainly not. I think we need Prince Sihanouk very much."

□ Kuala Lumpur: Chuan Leekpai, the Thai prime minister, told Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the prime minister of Malaysia, that Thailand will urge the Khmer Rouge and other factions to rejoin the peace process.

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John Charmley is sitting back and enjoying the fun as the academic world works itself into a frenzy over his revisionist biography of Churchill

The man who rewrote history

In the small town of Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill remains an idol. His statue is jovial. Ever since he came here with Harry S. Truman, playing poker on the presidential train, to deliver his "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946, Fulton has dedicated itself as a Churchill memorial, its Westminster College becoming a world centre for Churchillians.

Yet it is here that John Charmley, the latest revisionist historian to question Churchill's achievement, is to be found. He arrived last summer as the first visiting British professor — and gave his first lecture "Churchill: The End of Glory", the title of his book which this week caused so much squabbling among the history men. "They brought me here, only to find they have a viper in their bosom," chortles Dr Charmley with a loud guffaw. He is a bulky, Bunterish figure of 37 in spectacles and bow tie, puppyish rail-wagging, garrulous and thoroughly chuffed by all the fuss.

He calls people "old thing" and swears "By Jove!" and nobody would imagine that he was brought up in a Birkenhead council flat, the eldest son of a dock and a bingo hall bar manager. His brothers in Birkenhead are a bricklayer and a window cleaner. He was "the black sheep" who bought the family its first ever book (on Lord Nelson, 2s 6d, when aged five) passed the 11-plus, and won a history scholarship to Oxford, where he expunged all trace of northern vowels, found "the Bodleian to be heaven on earth, and gained a First.

Far from wishing to lynch Dr Charmley, his Fulton hosts are thrilled to hear the faxes hum with world-wide publicity for their iconoclastic professor. Nothing can dent the rampant Anglophilia of this re-

markable middle American town, pop. 10,000, named after Robert Fulton who invented the steamboat. It is a throwback to the 1950s with a main street, two banks, half-a-dozen churches, verandahs still garlanded with Christmas wreaths, and hardly any crime.

The most extraordinary part of the Churchill memorial is that the Wren church of St Mary Alder-mansbury, damaged in the war and due for demolition, was rescued and brought to Fulton, stone by stone, 4,000 stones, and reconstructed to stand no longer hemmed in by Love Lane in the City of London, but white and proud against the blue expanse of the Missouri sky. Lawrence Davidson, a former president of Westminster College, raised the necessary £3 million from public subscriptions, and now in the church's vestry Dr Charmley, an Anglican convert from Methodism, has been given an office in which to muse on matters Churchillian.

Such is his lithe and easy nature, he is not at all dismayed that some commentators on his book (eg Professor Norman Stone's in *The Guardian*) read as if Alan Clark and not Dr Charmley were the author. Mr Clark, the former defence minister, wrote approvingly of the Charmley thesis in *The Times* last Saturday and in the ensuing debate about whether Churchill might have dealt differently with Hitler he has been featured as prominently as Dr C.

"Well, as Ronald Reagan said, there is nothing you can't do if you don't mind who gets the credit," says Dr Charmley, as irrepressible as Mr Joram in David Copperfield. "If people want to throw my ideas around, that's fine by me. Historians don't own ideas."

He had not set out to be deliberately revisionist anyway. He began

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



— like his hero among historians, A.J.P. Taylor — with a straightforward question: what do we mean by regarding the second world war as a success? "If it was fought to save Poland's independence it failed. If it was fought to keep totalitarianism out of Europe it failed. If it was fought to keep Britain an independent power it failed."

It has of course been pointed out that, since he was born in 1955, he could not possibly judge the mood of the country on the receiving end of Churchill's oratory. "But I do give him credit for his great speeches, which move me as much as they moved everyone. I don't think he was merely the lion's roar. At that time people were confused, dejected, traumatised, upset. If they had had Lord Halifax telling them it was necessary to talk peace, I don't think they would have torn him down but what did they get

instead? This romantic reactionary telling them impossible things, things that made them into heroes. He appealed to that desire which Dr Johnson identified — that every man thinks the worse of himself for never having been a soldier. So for 1940 Churchill was the essential man." By 1941 we were in "a mess we should never have got into, and needed someone who did not see everything in black and white. That was Churchill's defect — when we all know most things are in murky shades of grey."

His only memory of Churchill is of the state funeral when he was nine. "My grandmother, a working-class Tory, spoke of Mr Churchill in the same voice she kept for the Lord God Almighty. He had won the war and saved England. I grew up with the conventional Churchill-as-god, and there matters rested until I read Robert Rhodes James, his most perceptive biographer. And when I was

researching my biographies of Duff Cooper and Lord Lloyd, the picture that emerged did not fit the Churchill I had inherited."

So he found himself deconstructing the "sanitised mythology" using primary sources. "Eden's diaries, one of the new sources available to me, are full of comments about Churchill being waffly and long-winded, despite what he said in his memoirs about him being wonderful."

Dr Charmley is not the first to deconstruct. He points out that even Mary Soames's excellent biography of her mother Clementine makes it perfectly plain that the saintly lady could have saved her husband from many headstrong impulses, had he heeded her acute political advice. The fortunate Dr Charmley says he has found his own Clemmie in Lorraine, the wife who organised his life and fended off distractions so that he could write his 649-page book in six

months last year. His first wife lives in Norfolk in a converted inn with their three sons — the twins Gervase and Gerard, who are 13 today, and Kit, nearly four.

He is an insouciant workaholic — the Americans would call him hyper — who punctuates his conversation with roundabout, laughter and asides of "God bless him/her", enthusiastic and sociable, which all makes him fit admirably into the friendly, if quieter, Fulton community. After June he will return to the University of East Anglia where he normally lectures at a stipend of £22,000 a year, though he adds that his books — this is his fifth — do make money.

He expects to be unpopular among fellow historians, historians being what they are, and he does evince some dismay that Alan Bullock calls his work "counter-factual". As for Martin Gilbert's wounded comments, he retorts: "I defy anyone to find Martin express-

ing an opinion anywhere in his five million words of following Churchill minute by minute through each day, the great unreadable Churchill encyclopaedia, read only by people like me. No, I am sorry. Martin does express an opinion in volume eight around page 105, where he opines that Churchill's "Crestapo" election broadcast in 1945 might have been a mistake. One qualified and critical comment you could have knocked me down with a feather. How can you rewrite Churchill's history using only Churchill's own eyes?"

"I'm an old-fashioned Clotopatra's nose historian — if her nose had been a different shape, Caesar and Mark Antony would not have fallen for her, and history would have been different. Churchill's single-mindedness, inability to appreciate others' feelings — where did it start? In the heart-rending letters sent to his mother from school."

History would be hard work if it wasn't so much fun. I don't believe that history is a high priestly mystery. For the record, responding to the controversy of the past week, Dr Charmley never says that a treaty with Hitler himself would have worked. "But Churchill could have followed a line of diplomacy that would have detached Hitler from his chieftains — we did it with Admiral Darlan in the North Africa campaign and saved thousands of Allied lives, and we dealt with the fascist Marshal Badoglio when we invaded Italy. These were both perfectly sensible strategies. Why didn't we pursue that strategy with the biggest evil of all?"

"And people like Martin Gilbert say 'what about the Jews?' Well, why just the Jews? What about the liberals and trade unionists and homosexuals who were in the concentration camps? When my critics say I'm using arguments from hindsight, nobody in 1939 was saying we should go to war for the Jews. The real Holocaust only really got underway in 1943-4 when the Germans were losing. And while we're on moral high ground, what about the people in Stalin's concentration camps? Were they not worth dying for?"

Afterwards there were no amplit uplands but a darkling plain, "where ignorant armies clash by night". Churchill's leadership was inspiring, but in the end it was barren, it led nowhere. "Next to the Wren church and the Beilsby statue of Churchill in Fulton there is another, more strikingly incongruous memorial — a piece of the graffiti-covered Berlin wall, with human shapes hewn out of it by Churchill's granddaughter, the artist Edwina Sandys. A 20th-century symbol of the kind of graphic history that not even the most assiduous academic can rewrite."

Sticking to his guns: John Charmley "a Bunterish figure in spectacles and bow tie: garrulous and thoroughly chuffed by all the fuss"

This weekend, Britain's top chess player plays for unknown riches

Short's millionaire gambit

This Sunday is D-Day for Nigel Short, Britain's strongest ever chess grandmaster. Short will begin his challenge to the Dutch champion, Jan Timman, and if he beats Timman, he will then play the world champion Gary Kasparov for his title this summer. He will also almost certainly become Britain's first chess millionaire.

Even if Short were to lose to Kasparov, he should receive about £1.25 million as his share of the purse, and can expect to secure lucrative merchandising deals.

If Short loses to Timman, he will receive about £50,000. The reason for the huge potential prize for the world championship can be found in two words: Bobby Fischer. When the American played his comeback match in the former Yugoslavia last autumn, against Boris Spassky, the man he beat to take the world title 20 years before, he received £195,000 for each game that he won. Fischer's overall prize from the match, for winning ten games, was nearly £2.25 million. Spassky carried off £1 million.

The 1992 Fischer-Spassky match was not sanctioned by FIDE, the world chess federation. As a result, an outraged Florencio Campomanes, the president of FIDE, has insisted that the prize purse for the official championship must come to at least £3.3 million, a world record.

A venue and sponsors must be found before February 8. FIDE already having rejected Los Angeles and Toronto. If Short eliminates Timman and suitable sponsors can be found, London will be a strong contender to stage the match. That would also augment Short's "bankability", both because he would have the "home advantage" and because it would raise his profile in his native country,



Concentrated effort: grandmasters Nigel Short, left, and Michael Adams

enabling him to sell products branded with his own name. Kasparov, the champion, has led the way in self-marketing. He has a London agent and has struck lucrative deals with endorsements around the world of chess sets, computers and diskettes. If Short defeats Timman, he will certainly be inundated by such offers himself, with Mark McCormack's International Management Group — the agency which usually manages top golfers and tennis players — already said to be interested.

All this is a long way from the days when Wilhelm Steinitz, the first world champion, was buried in a pauper's grave in New York in 1900. Following Steinitz, Xaviers Tartakower and David Janowski, two of the most imaginative chess spirits of the first decades of the 20th century, lived out a peripatetic existence from hotel rooms across Europe. When they did strike gold in a tournament, the nearest casino regularly gobbled their profits. It was not by chance that many chess tournament sponsors were casino owners.

This bridge between such Bohemian-romantics and Mark McCormack is Fischer. When he played Spassky for the official world title in Reykjavik in 1972, Fischer de-

manded, and got, a £100,000 prize fund. Fischer squandered his winnings on donations to religious groups and for much of the next two decades, he existed on the charity of friends in a squalid Pasadena basement. But Fischer's world championship victory — the first by a non-Russian for 35 years — opened the way for hard currency purses. This was the signal that grandmasters from the West to come, such as Short and Michael Adams (a 21-year-old who in two tournaments last year beat some of the world's best players to earn £80,000 in prize money), could earn vast sums by reaching the pinnacle of chess.

Below the stratospheric level of championship prizes, an economic battle is taking place between western grandmasters and the many former Soviets who are suddenly emerging on to the international scene after the collapse of the Soviet Union and subsequent abolition of restrictive travel practices for its citizens. At the Hastings tournament, for instance, the director, Stewart Reuben says that "there are now 140 players in the 'B' group at Hastings, where the first prize is £11,000. Of that 140, ten per cent are Russians. Ten years

ago, there would have been 50 players in this tournament, with the likelihood that there would have been no Russians present at all. Even with a comparatively small prize fund, the value of hard currency in the former Soviet Union is such that players can live well there by participating in the "European 'B' events. Meanwhile, many western grandmasters are feeling the pinch of competition, from the liberated intellectual forces of the former Soviet republics. William Watson, who persevered for five years to earn his grandmaster title and qualified for the English Olympiad team in 1990, has returned to law studies. As he and many others have remarked, it can be dispiriting to arrive for a tournament which one had previously won comfortably only to discover coach loads of higher-ranked Russians, Ukrainians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians disgorging their heavyweight intellectual cargo on one's front doorstep. Chess can furnish amazing riches. But how does one tell if a child has the requisite spark of genius for the game and the determination to persevere to become a champion? The pattern of almost all successful grandmasters and champions is that they learn the game very young, by six at the latest, and simultaneously display impressive powers of concentration. Luke McShane, an 8½-year-old, has already won the under-ten world championship and become the world's youngest master. Luke is already capable of earning hundreds of pounds whenever he is successful competing against adults. So, if you have a three-year-old who plays chess and can concentrate, you may have the next chess millionaire on your hands."

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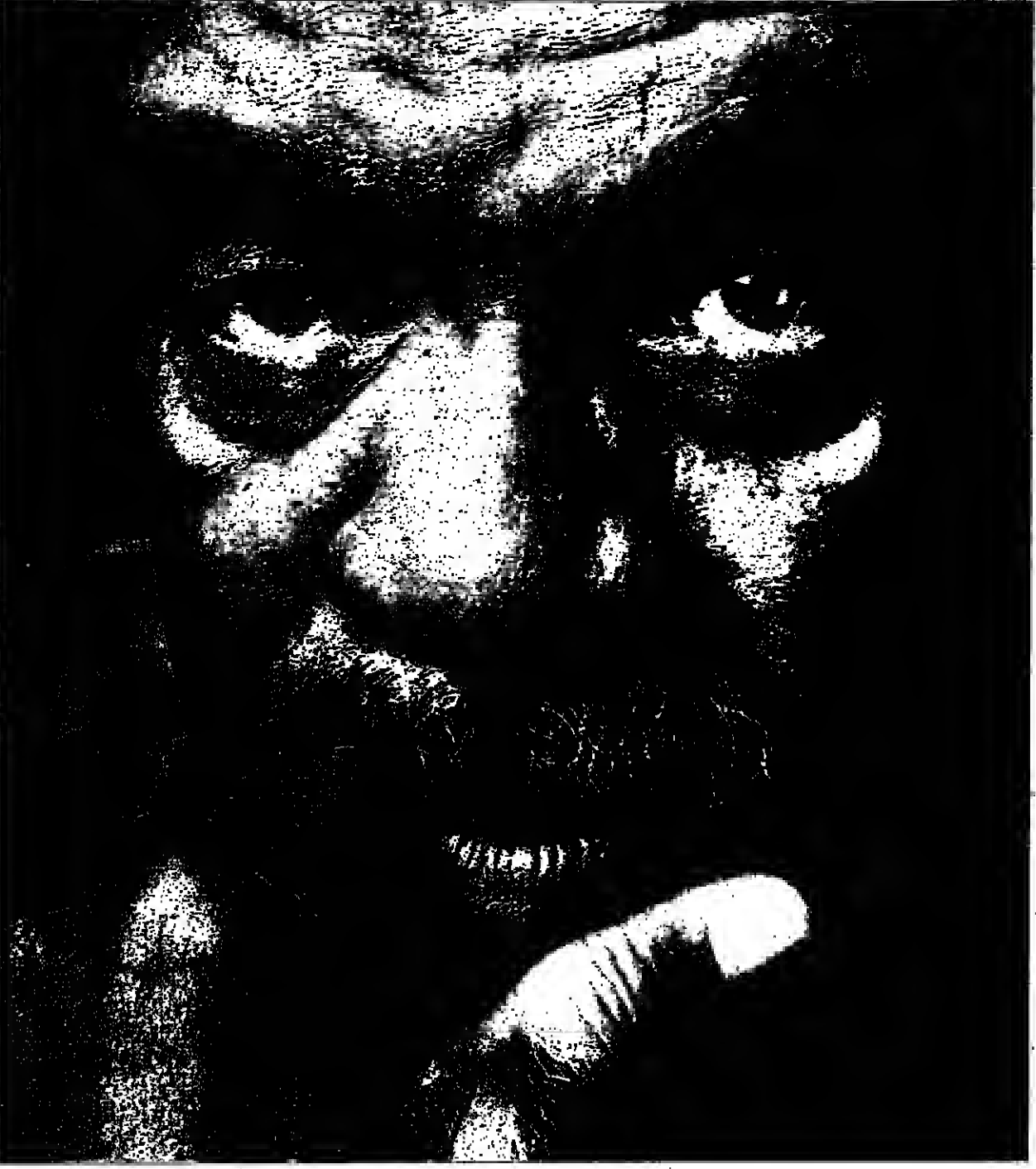
Daniel Johnson examines the new school literature anthology and advises now read on

Literature is something about which honest men and women will disagree. Examining children on their serious reading is — always has been — a pretty arbitrary affair, as difficult as it is important to get right. The brouhaha about the School Examinations and Assessment Council's (SEAC) anthology of texts for exams in Eng. Lit. does not mean that the whole idea of teaching children to read good books, otherwise known as classics, was a bad one. Just the reverse: parents, teachers and politicians are exercised about what, if anything, our children should read. That, at least, is unequivocally a good thing.

SEAC's slim pamphlet is certainly imperfect, and has been predictably whistled off the stage by several men and women of letters. A leading article in yesterday's *Evening Standard* (which many schoolboys or girls might well identify by its baroque style as the work of that newspaper's literary editor, A.N. Wilson) called on John Patten, the education secretary, to make an act of contrition for "this rag-bag of mutilated texts" by "burning the anthology in a public place". The poet and novelist Michèle Roberts reckoned that four women from a list of 19 was too few (she has a point about quality, if not quantity: was Doris Lessing really preferable to Jane Austen and George Eliot?).

Everybody has a little list of writers who ought to have been included, or better samples of those who are. At the back of some critics' minds may be the thought: why am I not on the list? Why should Michèle Roberts be passed over in favour of Patricia Pogson or even Elizabeth Jennings, neither of whom has had a novel on the Booker shortlist? Why should Anthony Thwaite, say, be preferred to A.N. Wilson, who is more famous and even more ubiquitous? Perish the thought that any living writer should harbour envy for the fortunate few who are chosen, still less avarice: but I can imagine publishers casting an eye down the list and calculating how many extra copies the authors on it will sell.

Much more weight should be attached to the criticisms of those who have to teach these texts — and by that I mean classroom teachers, not union officials. Nothing is harder than teaching literature, properly (certainly not writing newspaper articles), but by limiting the field



From *The Young Wife* by Derek Walcott

Make all your sorrow neat.
Plump pillows, soothe the corners
of her favourite coverlet.
Write to her mourners.

At dusk, after the office,
travel an armchair's ridge,
the valley of the shadow in the sofas,
the drapes' dead foliage.

Ah, but the mirror — the mirror
which you believe has seen
the traitor you feel you are —
clouds, though you wipe it clean!

The buds on the wallpaper
do not shake at the muffled sobbing
the children must not hear,
or the drawers you dare not open.

Modern voice: Derek Walcott's "The Young Wife"

will encourage children who have lost parents to talk about their experiences

committee are school-teachers or academics: a fair cross-section of the profession, in fact. What of the texts themselves? The selection is recognisably the product of a hydra-headed committee with various constituencies to placate. It reads a bit like the guests at a celestial writers' conference.

There are Norman MacCaig and Andrew Young representing the Scots; here are Dylan Thomas and R.S. Thomas for the Welsh; West Indians have a poem by Derek Walcott and a story by Samuel Selvon. Middle English weighs in with a chunk of Chaucer's Prologue (plus translation to satisfy the modernists). While classicists have an episode from Johnson's *Rasselas*, romantics may feast on Blake,

From *Yesterday* by Patricia Pogson

It seems only yesterday
I balanced a tiny foot
on my palm
and marvelled
that anything
so perfect
could be so small.
Now I can fit my hand in
when I clean your shoes.

I can remember
when I was centred
round you
feeling your feet
strong and determined
testing the strength
of my rib cage
your hard heels
distorting my belly.

Wordsworth (Dorothy as well as William) and Keats, while Victorians have Clare and Browning. Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie*, that classroom standby, is in; so are two older stalwarts, *David Copperfield* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Presiding over them all is Shakespeare, nodding to potential truants with his whining schoolboy creeping like a snail unwillingly to school, and

appealing to the teenager tired of life with the richly embroidered pessimism of Sonnet 73. If there is a common theme, it is the relationship between youth and age, children and parents — noon and evening, as Johnson has it, or spring and autumn, as in Keats. This thread is carefully thought out, and suggests a guiding hand behind the choice of texts. If not of authors, my guess is that the hand belongs to Dr Marenbon, who is often jeered as some dry-as-dust "traditionalist", but is in fact a brilliant young Cambridge don who is more sensitive to literary texts than most of his critics.

Such a reading list would not be a bad start for a foreigner wishing to acquire some inkling of English literature; it goes without saying that such a handful of gobblets is quite insufficient for an educated person who may leave school after GCSE. The anthology only makes sense as the final stage in a process of inculcating literary judgment, taste and discernment over several years. The context in which the final examinations take place is more important than which texts are studied for it.

A school in which culture prevails over anarchy will know how to treat this booklet: one in which teachers set an example by reading widely and sharing the fruits of their reading, in which books for the school library are given the highest priority in allocating the annual budget, in which the intellectual life is constantly held up as a model to be admired.

Exams are vile things, but they are necessary and they must be rigorous in order to be fair. For the purpose of discovery, whether a child has learned to read carefully and to understand what he or she has read, the number and length of these texts is immaterial. All that matters is that each of them be rich enough in layers of meaning and wide enough in frame of reference to bear extended discussion in class and private reflection.

Most of these texts meet those requirements — that is, they are teachable. Derek Walcott's moving poem "The Young Wife", for instance, would be a marvellous opportunity to encourage children who have lost parents to talk about their experiences. The Larkin poem, "Cut Grass", may not be one of his best, but has obviously been included so that teachers can compare it with two other poems, A.S.J. Tessimond's "A Hot Day" and Edward Thomas's "Adlestropes", which treat the theme of high summer quite differently.

A good English teacher should even be able to exploit the faults of this unpretentious anthology to show pupils how to make intelligent, constructive criticisms. The challenge, in any case, cannot be shirked. Those who are talking of boycotts should calm down, get hold of the pamphlet and start reading.

Topping the soul charts

The contemporary hymn writer who has turned his back on a fortune

In the religious pick of the pops Graham Kendrick has come in at number six. He is the most successful of Britain's praise and worship songwriters, and his composition "Shine, Jesus, Shine" has just ousted the Women's Institute anthem, "Jerusalem", from the Top Ten hymn chart compiled by the BBC1 programme, *Songs of Praise*.

The chart, based in a poll of viewers and released this week, shows Mr Kendrick up there with golden oldies such as Charles Wesley "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" and Isaac Watts "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". More than half a million people in Britain sing Mr Kendrick's songs every Sunday. Songbooks including his work sell in millions, and in the past decade he has sold well over a quarter of a million records.

Theoretically Mr Kendrick, the son of a Baptist pastor, could become the hymn-writing world's first millionaire. In fact he will not, because he takes only a monthly salary from his own publishing company, Make Way Music, and has set up a charitable trust to handle royalty payments, which in any case are seldom forthcoming from mass markets overseas where translations are unofficial and the publishing infrastructure not yet formalised.

Mr Kendrick says he does not mind "making money was not the object in the first place". The true goal he describes as being "to write songs which will equip Christians of whatever denomination to worship".

Though his work is best known in this country on the charismatic wing of the evangelical movement, Mr Kendrick is an interdenominational artist. Born and raised a Baptist, he spent eight years in the Anglican church, married in a Methodist chapel, and now worships with an independent free church, the Ichthus Christian Fellowship, in southeast London.

He is also a co-ordinator of the interdenominational Marches for Jesus, for which many of his songs have been written. These marches, Mr Kendrick says, are "joyful, positive movements of masses of people celebrating their faith". There were 55,000 marchers in London in 1988,

70,000 in Berlin last year, the biggest single gathering from the 600,000 people who took to the streets on the same day across Europe and America. This June the organisers hope to have 80 nations involved. Mr Kendrick is a self-taught musician whose work had its origins in the do-it-yourself pop and folk song era of the 1960s. He played guitar with a group from his Baptist youth club, for which he began to write songs.

He continued writing while at teacher training college. "Originally my songs were written without thought of publication, but they began to get around on the grapevine and were taken up by a publishing company."

He composes in bursts. "I start with an idea, a flash of inspiration, perhaps a word or a line which I have heard from someone preaching. After the initial inspiration I tend to be very methodical, making draft after draft, it is a laborious process."

Charles Wesley wrote 6,500 hymns, of which a dozen or so survive in popular use. "I have a long way to go to equal that," Mr Kendrick says. So far, he estimates, he may have turned out 300 songs.

His love of contemporary music does not prevent him from enjoying the old favourites that share the *Songs of Praise* top ten. The chart toppers are "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", "The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended", and "The Old Rugged Cross".

"People try to cast me as an opponent of traditional hymns, but it is not true," Mr Kendrick says. "I was brought up with them. I value and enjoy them." His personal fave raves would include Watts' "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", Wesley's "O for a Thousand Tongues" and Matthew Bridges' "Crown Him with Many Crowns".

"The church is put into the world, not to live on its past history but to make history," Mr Kendrick says. "To me that means each generation has to find its own contemporary expression of faith. Of course while traditionalists see me as a dangerous radical, there are doubtless younger people who are already saying that I am past it."

ROBIN YOUNG

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Could do better, say today's authors

Too much about the countryside, too many men and too many whites

John Patten, the education secretary, has said the English anthology showed that the SEAC was reacting to criticism. Today there was more criticism. Michèle Roberts, the poet and novelist, says: "There is a lot of work on rural experience, but not enough showing urban experience and therefore not pertinent to city children — and most children today are city children."

If the extracts had focused on sex, comedy, tragedy, horror and violence, there would be more chance of them appealing to 14-year-olds. For Ms Roberts, who pointed out how outnumbered women and black writers were, the anthology was too careful, and ultimately, stodgy and banal.

Carol Ann Duffy, who as well as being a popular poet has edited an anthology aimed at teenagers — *I Wouldn't Thank You for a Valentine* (Kestrel) — did not find this selection for 14-year-olds memorable.

"It is so white and male, that everyone will ignore it, and it will lead to more generations of non-readers," she says. "While adults find it easy to take pleasure in the classics, children need to be excited. A piece of writing should be so vivid for them that they should want it as much as a new CD."

Ms Duffy, 37, believes that, with teenagers, we should start with the writing of today and go backwards — that way they will see the relevance of writing to how people live. She points to the importance of the Liverpool poets *Merseyside* anthology to her generation, and condemns the contempo-

rary poetry choice in the anthology as scandalous. Christopher Reid, the poetry editor at Faber & Faber, who also works as an editor of children's books including those aimed at the teenage market, says that the last thing he looks for in a children's book is education. He looked for something exciting. "What good children's writers do, how they shock and show things that are part of growing up, is probably something education cannot handle."

Simon Mundy, the director of the National Campaign for the Arts believes that, "This is precisely the area that government should not get into. What is there to do is to provide the widest possible experience of literature, and to enable children to have a framework to make their own choices."

This anthology, Mr Mundy thought, went further than that. "Government should not dictate what children should and should not know as part of their aesthetic make-up — this is for teachers, parents and the children themselves. This is getting into matters of taste and historical legitimacy which are not the business of government."

I took down my dusty Coleridge's Wordsworth and tried to imagine myself in front of an inner-city class of 14-year-olds on a Friday afternoon, reading "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" to them. No chance. The people I spoke to would love to see the anthology advisers try something so unrealistic.

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Blue-stocking princess

Joanna Pitman on the ordeal facing Japan's future empress

Japan is rejoicing. At last Crown Prince Naruhito, the 32-year-old heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne has found himself a bride. Masako Owada, a 29-year-old of impeccable pedigree and exemplary discretion, is being wholeheartedly embraced as Japan's next empress.

She is an exceptionally brave woman. She spent two years enjoying the freedom to cavort as an undergraduate of Oxford University and developing a taste for a racy social life in America. On entering the rarified life behind the formidable stone walls of the imperial palace in Tokyo, she will be required to sacrifice immense personal liberties and live under restraints of a severity that Princess Diana could only have envisioned in her worst nightmares.

It will be a life of stifling Victorian respectability for one so well educated and cosmopolitan in her outlook. Her every public movement will be strictly circumscribed by the Imperial Household Agency, the august body of elderly aristocrats whose task it is to maintain the veil of mystery that shrouds Japan's imperial family.

It will be a life of stifling Victorian values for a brave, modern woman

And she will be permitted to say nothing publicly that has not been vetted.

It will be Ms Owada's bounden duty to bear the next heir to the throne. Sage commentators, who have been polishing their speeches for ten years, have begun to pronounce for the television viewing public that this could not be a more auspicious match, and her old school chums have been hauled before the cameras to inform Japan that their future empress's favourite food is avocado ice cream.

The nation is united in support of the prince's choice. Ever since he stated at a rare press conference five years ago that he planned to marry by the age of 30, and then failed to meet his self-imposed deadline, the public has agonised in sympathy for "Naruhito" as he is fondly known, over what appeared to be a fruitless search.

The household agency long rued the day that they allowed the prince to make an unscripted public statement of such a disastrously personal nature. Official bridal search parties were instantly dispatched to scour the nation for suitable candidates and then had to answer to parliamentary committees on their failure to produce a princess.

But the crown prince remained a dark horse. In person he is a charming man, chatty and relaxed and given to delightful flashes of humour. It was, I suspect, an early piece of mischief-making that led him to display a brief passion for film star Brooke Shields when he was a student at Merton College, Oxford in

1983. Ms Shields used to beam down upon him from a wall-poster as he sat at his desk studying the water transport systems of the 18th century, and when the voluptuous Hollywood star arrived for an after dark liaison at the crown prince's residence not long ago, pulses were set racing in the fossilised ranks of the Imperial Household Agency.

The horrifying notion that the crown prince might entertain amorous inclinations towards an American prompted the agency to tighten its already strict criteria for candidates. Now a future princess has been found and, remarkably, she fits the criteria admirably. She is younger and shorter than the prince, who stands five foot four in his socks. She is bilingual in English, and hails from a distinguished family with honourable diplomatic connections. She is a virgin and has not, in agency parlance, "disfigured herself", which is taken to mean that she has not had her ears pierced.

One can only hope that Ms Owada has given the marriage sufficient thought. Her future mother-in-law, Empress Michiko, who as the daughter of a wealthy and aristocratic soy-sauce brewer, became the first commoner to marry into the Japanese imperial family, went through well-documented agonies learning to live a new life under orders from the agency. And many of the potential candidates for marriage to Naruhito who were named by the Japanese press (there have been 72) refused to contemplate imprisonment within the imperial family for this reason.

One feisty character disqualified herself successfully by punching a particularly intrusive reporter on the nose in front of a camera man, and another deftly safeguarded her liberty by having her ears pierced.

But Miss Owada has perhaps calculated that the Imperial Household Agency will be forced, albeit slowly, to loosen its grip and that the slow erosion of its power, that began immediately after the war, will continue. The current Emperor Akihito seems to have made a popular start in his four-year-old reign, introducing its manner of small democratic touches such as having his motorcade stop at red traffic lights alongside other mortals. And the crown prince himself has made imperial history by having the first direct telephone line installed in the palace, allowing him to put through calls himself without the help of one of the agency minders.

The crown prince, being an Oxford graduate himself and something of a man of the world, will no doubt do his best to ease Ms Owada's entry into the imperial family. But for the marriage to be a success, the onus really rests upon the old hand at the Imperial Household Agency to allow her reasonable freedoms. The lessons may already have been learnt from the catastrophes that have beset our own royal family.

A tale of two house parties as the Tories gather at Chevening and Chequers

John Major wishes to draw a line under 1992 and make a fresh start in 1993. His meeting with his advisers at Chequers this weekend is welcome evidence of that. But what began as an end-of-year stocktaking is in danger of being seen as the launch of an entirely new strategy. The pundits are suddenly looking for new visions of conservatism with all the intensity of a baroque saint. But there is no new vision of conservatism to seek — the themes of opportunity, choice and ownership remain as crucial now as they ever were.

That does not mean the Chequers meeting is unimportant. For a start, it signals a new attention inside Downing Street to domestic politics. There are enormous pressures on any prime minister to spend more and more time on foreign affairs, pressures which the European presidency, reinforced, I remember once delicately suggesting to Margaret Thatcher that she might visit one or two more hospitals and see fewer foreign ministers. She replied, as if explaining why she had to invite the neighbours round to dinner, that she had visited their country last year and now it was our turn to entertain them. The policy unit, with its brief in domestic politics, can counteract such forces. It would be marvellous if every meeting with a foreign dignitary were matched with a visit to a school, a job centre, or a factory.

The most important domestic issue is, as always, the economy. The discussions at Chequers therefore need to be tied in with the Chancellor's meeting with his advisers at Chevening. There are now good prospects for recovery in 1993 but it would be dangerous if expectations started running ahead of reality.

This weekend's two house parties are inextricably interlinked. The discussions at Chequers about government policy for the rest of the parliament depend on the Chancellor and his advisers taking the right decisions about macroeconomic policy at Chevening. But the annual pre-budget meeting of the top Treasury team will in turn be influenced by the political strategy adopted by the prime minister.

John Major is the absent guest at Chevening whom all present will be thinking about. Like all prime ministers, and particularly his predecessor, Mr Major takes seriously his title as First Lord of the Treasury. He has supported Norman Lamont remaining as Chancellor, but that does not mean that the Treasury has a free hand over the Budget.

The prime minister knows that getting economic policy right is crucial to rebuilding his political fortunes. He underlined that last October when he, rather than Mr Lamont, announced the shift of emphasis in economic policy towards the self-proclaimed strategy for growth. He wants to repeat that now with a Budget which helps industry and assists recovery. Mr Major and his advisers have been heard referring proprietorially to their Budget. They will have a crucial input into Mr Lamont's decisions.

The Chevening meeting involves a preliminary discussion of Budget options. This weekend's talks, like similar such gatherings, are mainly intended to clarify thinking. Final decisions will not be taken for several weeks until after the Treasury produces its up-to-date forecasts and the new "wise men" panel of seven outside economists offers its varying views.

The idea of having such a weekend away from the distractions of Whitehall was inaugurated by the then Sir Geoffrey Howe in 1982, though the aim of quiet rumination has not always been achieved. On one occasion Lord Lawson had to dash away to a meeting on an exchange-rate mechanism realignment, and in January 1975 deliberations were interrupted by Sunday newspaper stories that the government was preparing to let the already weak pound fall as far as the currency markets were prepared to push it.

These reports were inspired by a briefing by Sir Bernard Ingham, then Downing Street spokesman. Lord Lawson notes that the "Ingham story was the end of all hopes of a reflective weekend on the Budget". Interest rates had to be raised by 1½ points on the Monday, following a

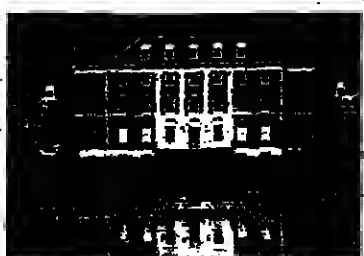
A weekend brainstorm

David Willetts on how ministers can freshen up policies

Growth is at best going to be modest. Unemployment will still be rising. The weekend's meetings are an opportunity to decide on the right note to strike when talking about the economy in the months ahead.

The meeting is above all an opportunity to look at how individual departmental policies measure up to those wider themes of opportunity and ownership. One example is housing. There seems to be renewed interest in reviving the private rented sector and this certainly makes economic sense. But any such initiative must not cut across the government's clear commitment to home ownership which is a widespread popular aspiration even after years of falling house prices.

One of the strengths of the policy



Chevening: Lamont's Budget

unit is that it can look across the work of several departments and see the connections. Throughout the public sector, for example, the government is establishing internal markets in which purchasers such as health authorities or local authorities buy services at arm's length from public

or private providers. It would be a valuable exercise to look at some of those contracts. How often is the consumer of the service referred to? Is the purchaser trying to specify in excessive detail how the job should be done and not just what the output should be? Is the public sector learning the new skill of sensible buying? At the same time the public providers such as hospitals and schools should be enjoying much greater freedom to run their own affairs than ever before. How is this working out in practice? Is there still an itch in Whitehall to intervene? How many unnecessary instructions are still going out to hospitals and schools?

One of Whitehall's weaknesses is a tendency to give much more atten-



Pondering the government's future: the Chancellor and the prime minister summon their officials

Snookering Whitehall

The central player will be missing, says Peter Riddell

one point rise the previous Friday. Mr Lamont should have a quieter weekend.

The meeting is normally attended by the full team of Treasury ministers, their special advisers, the permanent secretary, the second permanent secretary (including the chief economic adviser), the chairmen of the Inland Revenue and the Customs and Excise and a very few other officials.

The weekend also features a variety of social events attended by wives. Over the years, these have included charades and a traditional snooker match between ministers and officials. Nigel Lawson describes the event in his *View from Number 11* as having a distinct air of gentlemen's players as officials took the whole thing very seriously. On the first occasion, however, the ministers won, beating Sir Peter Middleton and Sir Terence Burns, the then permanent secretary and the current one. Lord Lawson records that "the two mandarins took care that such a perverse result did not occur again."



Chequers: Major at the helm.

setting aside time for intensive practice at the Reform Club, the favourite watering-hole of the senior civil service, grand in scale and austere in character, with a name that appears to satisfy their modest appetite for change.

This year's discussions will be different. Mr Lamont spent less time than he would have liked before Christmas thinking about the Budget. More important, 1993 will be the year of two full Budgets, one in March and the second in December. This is the result of the introduction from December of the first unified

Budget. This will combine the usual public spending decisions announced each year in the autumn statement and changes in taxes previously disclosed in the spring Budget.

The changeover is also likely to affect decisions about the March Budget. Mr Lamont will be considering a two-stage strategy, not just proposals for March but also for December. This approach is reinforced by the state of the economy. Several signs have appeared over the past two weeks that the recession is ending. Sales of new cars shot up in December and spending in the winter sales has been strong. Although eager to boost consumer and business confidence and to suggest that this year will be much better than 1992, the Treasury does not want to take the recovery for granted. Ministers accept that growth may not accelerate until later in the year and in 1994.

The prospect of a fragile short-term pick-up constrains decisions over the most serious budgetary difficulty in

tion to the formulation of new policy than to the implementation of policies already launched. The highest officials will get involved in drafting a white paper or a new ministerial announcement but what happens after that is often left to remarkably junior officials. Again the policy unit can counteract this by asking how previous initiatives are working out in practice. How are training and enterprise councils performing — are they focusing on the hard cases or creaming off for training people who might have been receiving it anyway? What has happened to previous initiatives to make parents take greater responsibility for crimes committed by their children? What progress is being made on private finance for public projects following the announcement in the autumn statement?

The challenge is to make the whole greater than the sum of its parts. One of the paradoxes of this government is that it is consensual and collegiate. Yet at the same time there is a host of bold individual departmental initiatives which are not linked together in the public mind as part of a wider strategy. Kenneth Clarke is looking at the performance of the police much more rigorously than ever before. Virginia Bottomley is grasping the nettle of London health care. John Patten is fighting for a common-sense national curriculum. Peter Lilley is at last getting to grips with social security fraud. Bringing these various initiatives together as part of a wider political strategy is essential for political success in 1993.

The author, Conservative MP for Havant, was a member of Mrs Thatcher's policy unit, 1984-6.

the medium-term, the soaring level of public sector borrowing (PSBR). Differences of what Whitehall officials like to call "emphasis" are already apparent between Mr Major and the Treasury. This is not just an arcane dispute about desired levels of public sector debt. How seriously you take the problem determines how much remedial action is necessary, and hence when, and whether, taxes have to be raised.

Mr Major said on Sunday that the difficulty of dealing with the high PSBR was overestimated. He argued that, since around two-thirds of current borrowing was cyclical to do with the recession, the underlying deficit was not all that much higher than the previous target of around 1 per cent of national income. Many outside economists regard that as too optimistic and believe the core deficit is much higher and will require more drastic action. In his interview last week with *The Times*, Mr Lamont laid much greater stress on tackling the size of the PSBR over the medium-term. Officials are genuinely uncertain about the size of the underlying deficit, but the Treasury and the Bank of England are worried that signs of complacency will worry the markets.

The snag is that ministers believe there is little room to cut public spending in view of the existing tight plans for 1994 and later. That leaves taxes. The government has to find £700 million to offset the abolition of special car tax and may raise duties on petrol, drinks and tobacco by more than the inflation rate. But the prime minister is seen in Whitehall as being strongly opposed to any substantial rise in taxes in the spring Budget, for fear of jeopardising the recovery.

Treasury ministers may not dissent in the short-term, and decisions about how to deal with the PSBR may be deferred until the December Budget. That, anyway, is when the Chancellor would announce any increase in employee National Insurance contributions, a backdoor form of income tax. That may also be when there is any extension of the base of Value Added Tax. Lord Lawson announced what he described as "disappointingly limited" extensions in 1984. At the last minute he was persuaded by Margaret Thatcher to drop a proposed extension of VAT to newspapers and magazines. They may not be so fortunate again.

As the now Lord Howe of Aberavon warned yesterday, taxes may have to be raised "sooner rather than later". The answer from Chevening, and Chequers, will probably be "not yet".

Ideas that dried up

EVEN as a student Norman Lamont, who today presides over a pre-Budget summit meeting at Chevening, had his mind set firmly on free enterprise. But his proposals for reviving the British economy are unlikely to include a long-forgotten idea from his university days — selling tea towels to American tourists.

According to contemporaries, Lamont, who was president of the Union at Cambridge in 1966, was determined to repeat the experience of the late Laura Ashley, who started her business printing tea towels on the kitchen table of her home in Wales.

Lamont, they say, attended a board meeting of the Cambridge newspaper *Varsity*, held in the home of Betty Menkes, the mother of Suzy, now the fashion editor of *The International Herald Tribune*. After the meeting, the future chancellor sought the views of Mrs Menkes about marketing tea towels, complete with pictures of London, for America.

Mrs Menkes recalls the discussion in the newsletter of the Hampstead-based Burgh House community centre. "We were shouting out ideas about colour

combinations such as peach and grey," she writes.

Suzy Menkes, the first woman editor of *Varsity*, recalls the occasion. "It was the great era of Laura Ashley. He obviously saw the idea as a green shoot of opportunity." Lamont insists there was no such proposal. A spokesman says: "It has never crossed the Chancellor's mind, seriously or otherwise, to become a tea towel salesman." Not yet anyway.

Sign of the times

GIVEN that the Start 2 disarmament treaty should result in the scrapping of two-thirds of the world's nuclear arsenal, its signatories used the most appropriate of writing implements — pens bearing a symbol made from scrapped Pershing and SS20 missiles.

The "world memorial pens" used by George Bush and Boris Yeltsin in Moscow were manufactured by Parker using weapons scrapped under previous treaties. They have been sold around the world for the late Lord Cheshire's World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief.

Cheshire hit on the idea in Moscow in 1989 when he discussed set-



DIARY

ting up the Soviet Union's first Leonard Cheshire home. Aware of its shortage of hard cash, the Kremlin suggested the metal. The Americans, not to be outdone, came up with a similar offer.

Date to bank on

AS IF the Bank of England did not have enough to worry about in trying to find a replacement for Robin Leigh-Pemberton, it now appears that a mole inside the organisation is attempting to scupper the Bank's plans for its tercentenary.

A mysterious letter in the staff journal suggests that the chaps in the Bank may have got their sums wrong. Supposedly from a professor Juliana Shapiro of Missouri, the letter suggests that the Bank has failed to allow for the change to the Gregorian calendar in 1752,

and hence the true tercentenary falls on August 7, 1994, rather than July 27, 1994, the date it intends to celebrate. "The letter purporting to be from Professor Shapiro is a spoof," says a spokesman for the Bank. "We know who wrote it and there is no great support for changing the date." Would that the same could be said for changing the governor.

● You know times are hard when Oxford colleges start cancelling dinners to save money. Queen's College has just announced the reason for cancelling its Needle and Thread Gaudy, due to have taken place on New Year's day. The gaudy takes the form of a three-course dinner for honorary fellows

"Take this and be thrifty"



and newly appointed heads of other colleges. Tradition holds that during dinner the bursar pins a brightly coloured piece of thread to each guest's bosom with the words, "take this and be thrifty." "This year," says Gaudy, "we have invited them to put this advice into practice."

Dead certainty

ERIC SYKES, the comedian, had a distinctly unsettling start to 1993, thanks to an incorrect news agency report that was picked up by the *Diary* (January 2).

The item reported that the Dead Comics Society had paid Sykes the compliment of mounting a plaque on his house. This came as something of a surprise to Sykes, who is alive and well.

"I am the only dead comic to be so honoured and have the privilege of being able to read it for myself," he says. Our sincere apologies to Mr Sykes and belated wishes for a happy new year.

The Dead Comics Society was as bewildered as Sykes by the news. David Graham, its founder, says the society's next plaque will honour Frankie Howard, followed by one commemorating Bereny Hill. Graham says: "We really must hope that Eric will join us for Frankie Howard's ceremony."



Richards reigns again

● At 33, the cricket career of Rudy Richards is finally starting to catch up with that of his older cousin Viv, the former West Indies captain. He has just been appointed captain of his cricket club, Chelvington and Ripe in Sussex, which he believes to be the oldest in England.

Richards, seen here with groundsman Stan Peters, moved to England from Antigua three years ago with his wife and two young children, and is delighted to

be made captain. "Last season I was always talking to the captain during matches. That must have helped me." As a teenager he held out hopes for an international career, but then he "fell in love, got married and had kids".

Although he refuses to compare his batting style with that of his cousin, Rudy has already brought one skill to the team. He is a decorator and painted the club pavilion... but that has nothing, he insists, to do with his selection.



LITTLE DICTATOR

Saddam needs a sharp reminder of the power confronting him

Saddam Hussein's dismissal of the latest allied ultimatum should come as no surprise. The Iraqi dictator has had much pleasure and some profit out of the months he has spent goading the United Nations and the allied coalition enforcing the Gulf ceasefire. He finds his pleasure because every act of defiance celebrates his continuing grip on power. He wins profit because every time he humiliates UN weapons inspectors, sabotages relief convoys or orders mass arrests and torture of his domestic opponents in defiance of UN resolution 688, he demonstrates to Iraqis and Iraq's neighbours the limits, short of using force, of international pressure.

Saddam may move the missile batteries just north of the 32nd parallel before the deadline expires today. That will not solve the larger question about Iraqi compliance with its international obligations. In response to an earlier violation of the air exclusion zone in southern Iraq, the Americans shot down one of Saddam's precious 200 remaining fighters on December 27. If signal this was, it was treated with contempt. Saddam continued the banned Iraqi flights and then moved in surface-to-air missiles. Yesterday, Iraq not only refused point-blank to comply with the allied ultimatum to withdraw these missiles from southern Iraq, but asserted that it intends to continue "training and patrol missions" in the air exclusion zone south of the 32nd parallel.

On Iraq's Army Day on Wednesday Saddam deliberately invoked the Mother of All Battles, which rational observers might assume most Iraqis would prefer to forget. His cousin and defence minister, General Ali Hassan al-Majid, further announced that the Iraqi army was ready to "liberate" northern and southern Iraq, zones under allied protection. Unless the southern air exclusion zone is effectively enforced, the safe havens in the north — already vulnerable as a result of the weak Western and UN response to Baghdad's economic blockade and its bombing of relief convoys — will lose what credibility they still have.

The allies have warned Iraq that it must move the missiles by 2230 GMT today or face serious consequences. The warning has the added weight of Russian backing: the

Russian envoy to the UN joined America, Britain and France to hand over Wednesday's ultimatum. To destroy the missiles might seem the proportionate response to a real but minor threat to allied aircraft. It would be derided in Baghdad as a flea-bite. Western governments should hardly need reminding by now that the only symbolic gestures that Saddam values are his own. This time — without using a hammer to crack a walnut — the folly of continued defiance must be brought home categorically to Saddam and his generals. That means taking action north of the 32nd parallel, to attack the source of trouble.

The allies — for it is politically important that French and British aircraft should be used as well as American — have no need to deploy more than a fraction of the airpower available to them, nor should they. Saddam should not be given the gratification of trumpeting to the world that the West needs 100 aircraft to eliminate a few antiquated anti-aircraft batteries. All that is needed, in the first instance, is a quick precision attack to eliminate the batteries, disable Iraqi radar in the area, and inflict severe damage on Iraq's capacity to violate the exclusion zone. The main target should be the Al Jarrah airbase, just southeast of Baghdad, from which most sorties have been flown and from which the batteries were deployed.

Saddam has calculated that the Western democracies, ever wary of over-reaction, will keep force to a minimum, reacting, but not in a manner that would render the costs of his game of political attrition intolerable. His retreats in the face of periodic allied ultimatums over the past 22 months have been tactical. His confidence has been reinforced by the high rate of political mortality among the British, French and American leaders of the coalition that forced him from Kuwait. He believes that the West will eventually tire of keeping him within bounds. Saddam has again miscalculated, but he must be seen by the world to have done so. A sharp shock is needed. Iraq's actions fully warrant it. There could be no better time to underline the international community's resolve than in the assumed twilight of the transition period between one American presidency and the next.

IRISH MIST

The punt should leave the ERM and shadow sterling

The probable survival of Fianna Fáil as the main party of government in the Republic of Ireland, and possibly of Albert Reynolds as prime minister, makes a mockery of the Irish electorate. Having forced the republic to the ballot box in the first place by foolishly insulting his Progressive Democrat partners, Mr Reynolds then steered Fianna Fáil to its worst result since 1927. The taoiseach's obstinate defence of the punt's position in the exchange-rate mechanism — which forced overnight interest rates up to 100 per cent last night — defies economic reality and offers scant hope to the unemployed, who now account for almost a quarter of the Irish work-force. Yet when the Dáil reconvenes next week Mr Reynolds may still be at its helm, in partnership with Dick Spring's Labour, which doubled its representation. The "Albert factor" was meant to spell doom for Fianna Fáil but, in practice, has helped it cling to power.

In spite of the republic's urgent need for strong management, the parties have spent a record six weeks cobbling together a new pact, which will be formally ratified this weekend. After all the talk of waterfalls and milestones, the youthful Irish electorate may find the omens uninspiring. Early last month, the inclusion of Fine Gael and the SD in the proposed "rainbow coalition" held out some hope of restraint in public spending, imaginative private-sector solutions for the economy and an improvement in Anglo-Irish relations.

Instead, the political spoils will almost certainly be shared by two high-spending parties, relying on ever-increasing EC hand-outs to fund their spending sprees. Labour,

which has demanded six out of 15 cabinet seats, is strongly opposed to privatisation, and campaigned for an increase in public borrowing of at least £350 million. Before the election, Mr Reynolds scorned Mr Spring's taxation plans. Now, to retain Labour support, the taoiseach must commit himself to an interventionist programme that the Republic cannot afford. The coalition's plans for three new ministries betray an appetite for big government.

As prospective foreign secretary, Mr Spring will promote a more pragmatic attitude to Northern Ireland, and may even lobby to end Ireland's constitutional claim to the north. Yet Fianna Fáil, the party founded by Eamon de Valera in opposition to the Anglo-Irish Treaty, is unlikely to shed its old leprosy so easily, as it struggles to preserve some ideological coherence. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, may find little to cheer him in the new alignment.

The priority of the new government should be a drastic cut in interest rates. National hubris has nurtured absurdly high expectations of the punt, which was even touted at one stage as a petro-currency. Such delusions were not even shattered by Black Wednesday, which added 20 per cent to the cost of exports to Britain, still the foundation of the Irish economy. Whoever is taoiseach next week should at least allow the punt to devalue. A more radical solution would be to leave the ERM and shadow sterling, permitting the necessary interest rate cuts. This, rather than artificial job-creation schemes, would be a realistic basis for the regeneration Ireland so plainly needs.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Alarm about the government's English anthology is unjustified

The new anthology of readings to accompany English testing for 14-year-olds has been greeted with predictable outrage from teachers' spokesmen. The objections come on two grounds. One is the content of the list itself; the other is the principle of government intervention in the subject matter of education. Looking at this thin, inoffensive document, in which are contained 19 very short literary extracts, it is difficult to imagine why it should be the cause of so much grief.

The first line of objection is difficult to maintain. No two academics, English teachers, or even educated laymen are ever likely to agree on a definitive list of ideal reading. But this offering of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Keats, and Dickens, among the classics, through Wilde, Larkin and Laurie Lee, up to Derek Walcott, is hardly controversial. The most frequent criticism has been that the selection is conservative, favouring traditional works over contemporary authors with whom children can most easily identify. A basic literary education must be weighted toward the classics. If it is not, it is neither basic nor literary.

There is a stronger case for saying that it is wrong for government to prescribe the

detailed content of education. Politicians (or their politically sympathetic appointees) are not the best people to choose book lists, still less to arbitrate the minutiae of syllabuses. There is bound to be an unsavoury hint of totalitarianism: about any government that seeks to control what happens in the classroom. But claims by teaching unions that the government is aiming at intellectual uniformity are absurdly exaggerated. Alarm among parents and public about what was and was not being taught in schools has become pervasive. The most that Conservative reforms are attempting to establish is a return to some reasonable minimum of accepted learning.

The furore over this anthology might be justified if it were a single complete reading list for children of 14. In fact, it is intended to be only a small part of the English programme and to ensure that all children get at least a taste of these recommended authors. The teaching lobby has largely brought this dose of corrective interference upon itself. Once the Government has injected some sensible guidelines into the curriculum, it ought to be able to withdraw from this contentious arena. This anthology is welcome. May it also be the last of its kind.

Trident warhead policy review

From Dr Stephen Pullinger

Sir, The time is now right for Britain to review its warhead policy for Trident (report, January 5) for the following reasons:

1. The original decision to deploy up to 128 warheads per Trident boat was taken in the early 1980s, during the Cold War, when Moscow was the nerve centre of a communist tyranny. Since then, communism has been broken, the USSR has disintegrated and the Warsaw pact has collapsed. The rationale for targeting Moscow is much weaker than it was.
2. The challenge that SDI (strategic defence initiative), and latterly GPALS (global protection against limited strikes), potentially posed to Trident's credibility, appears to have diminished in light of Bill Clinton's election. He has expressed his intention to reduce SDI funding and to support continued adherence to the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) treaty. Likewise, President Yeltsin has stated his allegiance to that treaty.

3. The political climate has changed. We are entering an era when proliferation is the major nuclear challenge facing Britain and the rest of the world. Our imperative should be to uphold, strengthen and widen the membership of the non-proliferation treaty. To improve our chances of achieving that we must take our treaty obligations seriously, by not increasing warhead numbers and by entering the Start (strategic arms reduction treaty) process.

Britain enjoys a privileged position as a nuclear weapon state. It should not lay itself open to the charge of abusing that privilege by expanding its strategic arsenal beyond what is necessary, and regardless of its treaty obligations.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PULLINGER
(Executive Director,
International Security Information
Service,
8 John Adam Street, WC2,
January 5.

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir, Almost everybody will welcome the prospective reduction of the American and Russian nuclear arsenals and what it may eventually do to establish "a zone of security" from Vancouver... to Vladivostok, as your leader (January 4) described it. But not quite everybody. Britain bucks the trend. Instead of trying to "leave aside its insular preoccupations" this country, for the narrowest of reasons, is increasing its so-called independent nuclear deterrent fourfold by replacing Polaris with Trident. And so far from adjusting "its policies, and its military doctrines, to deal with... nationalist firestorms", Britain continues to propagate the worst long-term incendiary agent of all — nuclear proliferation.

Our "political chimera" of defence isn't even European: it's Little England. This condemns us not just to a year but to decades of "insularity, weakness and wasted time".

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACKIE
(Vice-President,
Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7,
January 4.

Churchill's resolve

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I was surprised that none of your correspondents (January 5, 7) has mentioned the one piece of history which those who lived through the second world war knew was at the root of Churchill's resolve to fight until the total defeat of Germany. That was the Armistice at the end of the first world war, which paved the way for Germany to re-arm.

I fear we have done the same again in the Gulf and that as a result we may not have seen the last of Saddam Hussein, said to be an admirer of the former German dictator.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

Defence of TVS

From Mr James Gairward

Sir, To state that TVS's programmes "never lived up to its promises" (TVS seeks blessed relief from "decade of disaster", December 31) flies in the face of irrefutable testimony to the contrary and insults the talented staff at TVS who produced hundreds of programmes in many categories, to excellent standards.

The "Italian housewife" poster did use a British model, but to suggest that its message, obscured as it was by the smokescreen created around that action by interested parties, proved to be a "disaster" must be judged alongside the fact that through the total deregulation the poster had warned against, hard-core channels are now receivable in the UK.

To suggest that "Italian television stations no longer broadcast 'strip-tease shows'" and that TVS had a shareholding in SuperChannel when it was "...proposing to screen sex comedies" is simply not true. TVS, along with ITV companies, which

Mental illness and the community

From Ms Mary O'Hagan

Sir, I am sad to see that Virginia Bottomley is responding coercively to the plight of people with mental health problems (report, January 4). Her proposed community treatment orders would extend psychiatric coercion, which already exists in institutions, into the community.

Most, if not all, compulsory treatment is just a cage at the bottom of the cliff: people with ongoing mental health problems are subjected to ineffective and unresponsive services, low income, lack of housing, unemployment, lack of support and friendship and chronically low self-esteem.

Putting a cage at the bottom of this precarious cliff is not the answer or even part of it. As a mental health service user myself, I know that responsive services which respected my autonomy and acceptance from wider society had a far more therapeutic effect on me than the coercion, neglect and abuse that has stalked "mad" people for centuries.

Virginia Bottomley, when she considers the recent incident at London Zoo, needs to be reminded that society and the mental health system are often the real lions that maul our well-being and personal power. Community treatment orders would make matters worse.

Yours etc.,
MARY O'HAGAN (Chair,
World Federation of
Psychiatric Users,
Centre for Mental Health Services
Development,
King's College London,
Campden Hill Road, W8.

From the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, Your leader, "Care for the vulnerable" (January 5), will be welcomed by the mentally ill and those who care for them, be they relatives, friends or professionals. You are correct in stating that the emptying of psychiatric hospitals took place without adequate alternative care being provided for all mentally ill people.

The majority of those who were previously long-term in-patients in psychiatric hospitals have benefited from being able to be treated at home with only brief admissions as in-patients, but there have been casualties of this system.

These include some people, mostly suffering from schizophrenia, who respond to treatment in hospital; they require continuing treatment when they are discharged from hospital but, after a variable length of time, refuse to co-operate with those providing treatment, and then deteriorate in their mental health, with potentially

calamitous consequences. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has been discussing a community supervision order, rather than a community treatment order, so that it is supervision which is compulsory, if this is refused by the patient, he or she would then be readmitted to hospital compulsorily under the Mental Health Act, thus avoiding any unseemly attempt to give compulsory treatment, perhaps by injection, to an unwilling patient at home.

Improvements in the law alone are not enough for better care. More resources are required: the proportion for mental illness of the NHS hospital budget has actually decreased in recent years.

Better organisation of mental health services is also required. As one example, there are probably now an adequate number of community psychiatric nurses to look after those patients suffering from schizophrenia who live outside hospital and they are best qualified to do so; but four-fifths of people suffering from schizophrenia have no identified community psychiatric nurse. Those needy patients for whom they are best trained and equipped to provide continuing care do not now receive their help.

As well as a review of legislation, there is a need for a review of the organisation of mental health services, and also for more resources, especially to provide highly trained mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, nurses and others.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW SIMS,
President,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1,
January 5.

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, Surely the ultimate cause of inadequacies in the treatment of the mentally ill is widespread public indifference to mental illness. How often, for instance, does one hear of members of the royal family touring mental hospitals or similar institutions? Too many people still use the wide range of highly offensive terms for the mentally ill. Yet if they use equally offensive words from the lexicon of racism they can quite rightly face prosecution.

Oh that a fraction of the public money spent on the anti-Aids campaign was used to educate people to an understanding of mental illness. One can generally decide whether to take the risk of catching Aids: no such choice applies to mental illness.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,
Wingrove, 57 Macclesfield Road,
Wilmslow, Cheshire,
January 6.

Comings and goings

From Mr Seweryn Chomet

Sir, Your letters on street meetings (December 30, January 6) reminded me of an event experienced 50 years ago. In 1942, when I was 12, I was walking along a street in the ghetto of an East European town when I noticed two Gestapo men walking towards me.

There was every reason to believe that a face-to-face encounter with them would have been literally terminal. (Oh yes, they did shoot people in the street; indeed the famous writer Bruno Schulz was shot dead only a few yards away that autumn).

Two thoughts raced through my head: if I turn and run they will shoot

or (worse) give chase and catch me; or I ignore the danger, continue walking and within a couple of minutes will either know nothing or will be perfectly OK.

I therefore continued walking and, as I got closer to them, they turned right and I went on.

This "two-minute, keep-your-cool rule" has served me well ever since. It was only much later that I realised where the idea came from: it derived from the *Apologia*, in which Socrates discusses the fear of death. Who says classics are useless?

Yours gratefully,
SEWERYN CHOMET,
King's College London,
Department of Physics,
Strand, WC2.

Literary footnote

From Mr Michael Holroyd

Sir, May I add a footnote to Daniel Johnson's "Decline and fall of the footnote" (January 2)?

Since it is against journalistic ethics to disclose the source of information, I do not know where he found out that my publisher had paid me "some £800,000 in advance" for my *Bernard Shaw*. Unfortunately he is far too generous. For this biography, which I began in 1975, Chatto & Windus has actually paid me some £300,000. I hope that this will go some way to satisfying Mr Johnson.

But he is a hard man to satisfy. He

damns my fourth volume for being too "aim", my fifth volume for being too "far", and concludes that the biography "did not sell nearly well enough". My fourth volume sold out within six months and it has proved cheaper to reprint as part of the new fifth volume than separately.

Had the 9,000 reference notes of the last volume been added in the guise of footnotes to each volume as it appeared, the price of the biography for the general reader would have been much increased.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOLROYD,
85 St Marks Road, W10,
January 3.

Linking science with engineering

From the Astronomer Royal

Sir, Mr Kenneth Gatland (letter, December 28) endorses the call by the Royal Academy of Engineering for "a national engineering council to co-ordinate government-funded research and boost industrial innovation". At a time when William Waldegrave's Office of Science and Technology is preparing its white paper on future methods of funding these areas, the academy's "call" needs careful analysis.

That industrial innovation needs boosting is self-evident and that co-ordination of research funding across a wide field is required is, of course, the objective of having a minister for science and associated staff. However, the implied separation of funding for research in engineering from that for science would not be good for either. In a letter which you published on November 14, 1991, I referred to the interdependence of science and engineering. That argument is still valid: in space technology, the interaction between scientists and engineers is singularly strong.

In terms of research funding, the present arrangement whereby science and engineering requirements are met through the same body — the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) — should surely be continued.

Since no more than about 5 per cent of the UK's engineering research is funded by SERC, the remainder being covered by industry itself, it is the rather more basic parts of engineering that are covered by SERC — and these are the parts nearest to science in the main.

A significant part of the SERC engineering board's support is to university science departments: scientists contribute considerably to engineering research, and many university science graduates and PhDs join industrial concerns.

Rather than copy the German Fraunhofer institutes, which are intended to ease the flow of research knowledge into industry, such funds as are available for industrial innovation could help the new universities (ex-polytechnics) develop their infrastructures. Most have quite strong links with their local industries already and these could readily be built on and expanded.

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,
University of Durham,
Department of Physics,
South Road, Durham,
January 3.

Collar colours

From the Chief Executive of the Institute of Plumbing

Sir, In a recent BBC Radio 4 *World at One* interview (report, January 2) the prime minister mentioned the engineer and the plumber as examples of blue-collar workers. In his quest for a classless society perhaps Mr Major should recognise functions, drop references to the colour of collars and present an accurate picture of the engineering profession.

Chartered engineers, incorporated engineers and engineering technicians, together with those possessing engineering craft skills, act as an interdependent team in industry. Plumbing is an acknowledged part of the engineering profession.

The majority of my members work in self-employment or small businesses and have to be competent in administration as well as technical theory and practice. Collar colour is an historic irrelevance in today's society.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WATTS,
Chief Executive and Secretary,
The Institute of Plumbing,
64 Station Lane, Hornchurch, Essex,
January 4.

No Sir, not me

From Mr Christopher Leach

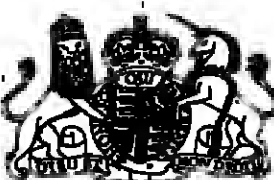
Sir, Members of all parties, the lower echelons of the Palace, and the whole of the publishing world were distressed to learn that Mr Christopher Leach has refused a knighthood for his services to English literature.

A deputation left Downing Street immediately, preceded by a host of TV crews, for the writer's home in rural Cheshire. Here, the sage of Knutsford, bearing the scars of many a literary skirmish, but still defiant, declined to be interviewed. Later, Mrs Leach appeared, flanked by two gamekeepers cradling loaded twelve-bores, and read a statement:

My wife and I look forward each year to scan the honours list: it affords us much merriment in these most brutal of times. There is always one name that causes us to fall about, and when, this year, we read that it was to be Sir David Frost we simply caved in. So soon as my eyes are dry, a fresh paroxysm convulses me, and I needs must reach for another brandy. There was a time when these awards were respected, but today they are worth less than a sack of cancelled IOUs. Now, please leave me in peace. I am engaged in something much more serious: watching *Thatcher's Life*!

Letters of condolence continue to pour into Buckingham Palace, where her Majesty, like the mass of her subjects, mourns.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEACH,
Far Yew Tree House, Over Tabley,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
December 31.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 7: The Duke of York, Patron, this afternoon visited the Royal National Theatre, North and Earl Hospital, London WC1.
Mrs Jonathan Mathias was in attendance.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 7: The Prince Edward this evening attended the London Promotion Gala Reception at Madame Tussaud's, Marylebone, London NW1.
Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 7: The Prince Royal, Master, the Westsail Company, of Larnard, this morning attended a Trade Liaison and Finance Committee Meeting at Guildhall, London EC2.
Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Seminar on "UK Contribution to Water Supply and Sanitation in Developing Countries" at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1, and was received by Mr Charles Rawlinson on assuming the appointment as Chairman of the Association.

Memorial service

Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe
The Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and Lady Mary Mott-Radcliffe attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe held yesterday in Norwich Cathedral. The Dean of Norwich officiated, assisted by Canon Michael Perham, presenter. Mr Thomas Courtland and Mr Edward Stiles, grandsons, read the lessons and the Ven E.J.C. Ward gave an address. The Bishop of Norwich pronounced the blessing.
The Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Head of the Diplomatic Service was represented by Sir Peter Marshall.

Dinner

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner last night at Guildhall the Chief Commoners and Members of the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the High Sheriff of Greater London, Mayors and leaders of the Greater London Boroughs, Aldermen, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London. The Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Chief Commoner spoke.

Tribology Trust

The Tribology gold medal for 1992 has been awarded to Professor Herbert S. Cheng of the Northwestern University, USA. Professor Chris Taylor of Leeds University received the silver medal and Mrs Flora de Maria Barragan de Ling of the University of Wales College of Cardiff received the bronze.

Papers donated

Stefan Heym, a German Jewish writer and activist who fled from the Nazis in 1933, has given his personal archive to Cambridge University Library. Mr Heym is author of *The King David Report* and *The Wandering Jew*.

Birthdays today

Miss Shirley Bussey, singer, 56; Mr David Bowie, singer and actor; Mr John C. Calia, chairman, British Aerospace; Mr S.G. Cameron, former chairman, Gallaher; 69; Sir Maxwell Entwistle, former chairman, Merseyline Development Committee; 63; Professor Stephen Hawking, CH, theoretical physicist, 51; Major-General J.R.



Ron Moody, the actor, is 69 today

Holden, 80; Lord Hollenden, 79; Mr Howard Jones, governor, Belmarsh Prison, 57; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archbishop of Westminster, 78; Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former director, RAF Nursing Services; 70; Mr D.E. Prince, headmaster, Reed's School, Surrey, 55; Mrs L.M. Read, MEP, 54; Professor W.B. Riddaway, economist, 80; Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 83; Mr G.H. Whalen, deputy chairman, managing director, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 57; Professor A.G. Wilson, vice-chancellor, Leeds University, 54.

Latest wills

Mr David Frederick Cook, of Great Dunmow, Essex, left estate valued at £3,148,888 net. His wife, Diana, Viscountess Gage, of Carlisle, Cumbria, left estate valued at £269,028 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.R. Ashworth and Miss S.A. Jones
The engagement is announced between Magnus, only son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Ashworth, of Esher, and Sally, second daughter of Mr Peter Jones, of Guildford, and Mrs Pauline Jones, of Bardsland.

Mr C.J.S. Bird and Miss C.L. Benson
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs James Bird, of Deal, Kent, and Christina, daughter of Mr Frank Benson, of Oxon, Surrey, and Mrs Judy Benson, of Sandwich, Kent.

Mr P.L. Clarke and Miss P.J. Townsend-Green
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Brigadier and Miss David Clarke, of Bramshill, Hampshire, and Prunella, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Townsend-Green, of Angmering-on-Sea, West Sussex.

Mr S.H. Courtney and Miss F. Yuen
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs P.H. Courtney, of Widenpool, Nottinghamshire, and Fung, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Yuen, of Hong Kong.

Mr J.A. Dodds and Miss B.C.L. McMillan
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Norman Dodds, of Garsfield, Co. Durham, and Bright Charlotte Louise, daughter of Mr Bill McMillan, of Powys, and Mrs Brigit McMillan, of Rutland.

Mr G.M.S. Ellis and Miss P.J. Bedford
The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs G.M.S. Ellis, of Sale, Cheshire, and Penelope Jayne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Bedford, of Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire.

Mr B. Hoekens and Miss S. Hodges
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs B. Hoekens, of Sudbury, Suffolk, and Sally, daughter of Mr C. Hodges, of Dunton, Norfolk, and Mrs A. North, of Harworth, Middlesex.

Mr J.D.S. Longfield and Miss R.S.G. Pulvertaft
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, between Mr James Longfield, only son of Brigadier and Mrs D.R.H. Longfield, of Downton, Wiltshire, and Miss Rosalind Pulvertaft, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Pulvertaft, of Sunshine Beach, Queensland.

The bride was given away by her father and attended by Miss Belinda and Miss Sarah Pulvertaft. Mr Angus Smith was best man.

A reception was held at 108 Old Brompton Road, the toast to the bride was proposed by Rear Admiral David Longfield. The honeymoon is being spent in Switzerland.

Mr P. Harlowe and Miss S. Hoekens
The engagement is announced between Peter Harlowe (H.M.), eldest son of Mrs Lillian Hill and the late Mr Maurice Hill, of Singleton, Sussex, and Tam, daughter of Sir John and Lady Hoekens, of Sudbury, Suffolk.

Mr J.R. Hughes and Miss C.A. Schiffer
The engagement is announced between John Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Hughes, of Worcester, and Corinna Anna, only daughter of Mrs Patricia Schiffer, of Wivenhoe, Essex, and Professor R. Schiffer, of Bochum, Germany.

Mr A.R.T. Johnson and Miss S.M.R. Cairns
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr Anthony Johnson, of Maddox, St James, London, and Miss S.M.R. Cairns, daughter of Mr P.R. Cairns, of Barmes and Mrs C. Olding, of Richmond, Newbury.

Mr O.E. Langston-Scott and Miss J.M.R. de Raer
The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of the late Judge Edward Langston-Scott, QC, and of Lady Russell of Killoway, of London, and Miss J.M.R. de Raer, daughter of Mr P.R. de Raer, of Barmes and Mrs C. Olding, of Richmond, Newbury.

Mr C.R. Leek and Miss L.C. Higgins
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Leek, of Worcester, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.M. Higgins, of Worcester.

Mr C.R.D. Owen and Miss R.M. Dresser
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs C.R.D. Owen, of Ramsbury, Wiltshire, and Robin, daughter of Mr William Dresser, of Ponceville, Florida, and Mrs Philip Yonge, of Orange Park, Florida, USA.

Mr J.D. Peppow and Miss L.A.E. Irwin
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs John Peppow, of St Bradae, Jersey, and Lorraine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gwyther Irwin, of Hillbury Road, London.

Mr C.J. Remington and Miss V.E. Ryall
The engagement is announced between Chris, son of Mr and Mrs John Remington, of Harny, Doncaster, and Vanessa, daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Ryall, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr M.E.C. Wright and Miss C.P. Resdale
The engagement is announced between Michael Edward Charles Wright, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Wright, of Garton Hall, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and Claire Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Resdale, of Bridgton, Widdington, Essex.

Mr S.G.P. Marry and Miss A.J.D. Stearns
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of the late Major A.G. Marry, and of Mrs H.E. West, of Woodmancote, Gloucestershire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.D. Stearns, of Hemel, Surrey.

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Church news

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Archaeology

British team finds 9th century church

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the largest churches built in the early Middle Ages has been found by British archaeologists in Italy. Dating to the 9th century AD, the church was more than 100 yards long, only slightly smaller than St Peter's in Rome. The discovery came during the twelfth season of excavations by the British School at Rome, at San Vincenzo al Volturno in the foothills of the Abruzzo 80 miles southeast of Rome. The monastery there was founded in 703, and rebuilt by Abbot Joshua on a huge scale in 808 with help from Charlemagne's son, Louis the Pious, but was destroyed by the Arabs in 881. The eastern facade was found buried below later terracing, still standing 16ft high in places, and 90ft wide.

The foundation inscription in letters of gold, some of which have been found. Its text, and the dimensions of the church, were recorded in a contemporary chronicle. The foundations of the three western apses were also found

and the length of the church established as 97 yards, although there may have been a massive ambulatory beyond the apses. Dr Richard Hodges, director of the British School, said: "It dwarfed the contemporary papal churches in Rome and was only a little shorter than the great 4th-century churches of Old St Peter's and Santa Maria Maggiore."

The church seems to have been modelled on the Carolingian imperial foundations at St Riquier in northern France, and Cologne and Fulda in Germany. "These huge churches were conceived as the St Peters of the north, designed to lay great emphasis on the power and authority of Charlemagne's regime," Dr Hodges said.

"To find such a building beyond the Carolingian frontier begs many questions: the Carolingians were probably depicting the awesome grandeur of the new ideology to win over the kingdom of Benevento."

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School news

Ashford School, Kent

The Spring Term commences on Thursday, January 7. Senior School entrance examination, Scholarship examination and Music Scholarship auditions Saturday, January 23. Junior School Scholarship examination Tuesday, January 19. Sixth Form Scholarships awarded to Anne-Marie Shellen, Alison Hickman, Alexandra Bigland, Tara Oser. Space Project Lecture February 26. The Zoo and Bird by Jerry March 4, 5 and 6. Aesthetics March 20, all in Brake Hall. End of Term Friday, March 26.

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Queenwood School

The Spring Term at Queenwood School begins on Sunday, January 10, and ends on Saturday, March 27. The School Council will be on Saturday, March 20, at 3.00pm. Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey. Spring Term starts on January 10, with Peter Knight continuing as Captain of School and Robin Page as Captain of Hockey. Sixth Form and Confirmation Scholarships will be held at the School on January 18 and 19 and 13 Music and Art Scholarships on February 23. Open Morning will be held on January 30 and Entrance Tests on February 7. The Andrew Reed Annual Lecture will be given at the School by the Bishop of Derry on March 2. The Confirmation Service will be conducted by the Bishop of Dorking on March 23 and term ends on March 24. The Old Reardonian Dinner will be held at the School on March 26.

Wrekin College
The Lent Term began yesterday at Wrekin College. A Charity Fashion Show takes place on February 18 and 19 and the Old Wrekinian hockey matches will be played on February 20. *The Elephant Man* will be performed from March 11-13 and the Choral Society will present *The Crucifixion* in Chud on March 17. There is an Open Day for prospective pupils and their parents on Saturday, February 27. Term ends on Wednesday, March 24.

King's School, Bruton
The Easter Term at King's School, Bruton starts on Monday, January 11. Mr Richard Smyth has taken over as Headmaster, in succession to Mr Tony Beadles.

Islanders may have to flee oil fumes

Shetland islanders may have to abandon their homes and move to the mainland as the oil slick from the stricken tanker *Brue* continues its progress north, engulfing the community in rancid fumes.

Families started moving from the area closest to the wreck to friends and relatives further north, and those who stayed were advised to keep children indoors. One school cancelled outdoor play. Pages 1, 3

Saddam plays cat and mouse game

Allied jets were poised to attack Iraqi targets as the hours ticked away to the deadline issued to President Saddam Hussein for the removal of missiles. Mystery surrounded reports that the weapons had been moved but the Pentagon in Washington refused to give details. Pages 1, 10

Bank blamed

A City bank caused the destruction of Scotland's largest construction company and put 2,800 jobs in jeopardy after it refused a plea for a loan of less than £2 million. Hill Samuel, the merchant banking arm of the TSB, admitted it had refused to put up fresh money for Lilley, the £340 million construction group. Pages 1, 19, 23

Smuggling 'fun'

Darius Guppy, the jewel dealer who was best man at the wedding of the Princess of Wales's brother, admitted smuggling gold to India for cash and "fun". Mr Guppy, an old Etonian who is also godfather to Earl Spencer's daughter Kitty, has pleaded not guilty to a £1.8 million insurance fraud. Page 2

Reading aid

A remedial reading scheme from New Zealand is to be expanded as part of a £10 million package of support for inner-city schools. Primary schools in 20 areas are already testing the Reading Recovery programme on six-year-olds who have fallen behind. Extra teaching in small groups is expected to enable them to catch up within a year. Page 5

Rover puzzle

As many as 5,000 cars which boosted Rover's December sales may never have been seen in showrooms — the cars were all registered by the company for its own use. Industry officials puzzle over the mystery. Page 5

Sunday workers want shops open

Shopping on Sundays puts many customers into the hands of a new breed of employee, the Sunday-only shopworker, according to a survey that suggests a majority do not see any disadvantage to working on the Sabbath. The study of Sunday workers was commissioned by a retailer-based group lobbying for changes. Page 5



Road closed: more than two thirds of the participants in the Paris-Dakar rally are bogged down in the Sahara sand. Page 34

ERM rally: The Bundesbank made a surprise cut in one of its key interest rates to take pressure off weaker currencies and avoid the collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism. Page 19

Gene for... Burton Group is saving money by cutting almost 2,000 full-time jobs, half of them at its headquarters, and is hiring up to 3,000 part-time staff. Pages 19, 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 9.5 points to 2816.5. The pound's trade-weighted index gained 0.1 to 81.8 as the pound rose from DM2.5166 to DM2.5190 and from \$1.5390 to \$1.5407. Page 22

Football: Ian Wright, the Arsenal and England forward, was banned for three matches by the FA after being found guilty of hitting David Howells, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player, last month. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, was fined £500 for making comments to the referee. Page 36

Racing: A seven-year-old maiden chaser, Big Ben Dum, backed down from 100-1 to 3-1 favourite, landed a spectacular gamble in the Carrick Hill Handicap. Page 33

Cricquet: Paul Taylor makes his debut for an England team in Lucknow, India, today knowing that this will be his only chance to stake his claim to a Test place with his seam bowling. The game, against the Indian Board President's XI, is England's last three-day match until just before the first Test in Calcutta on January 29. Page 32

Churchill: "They brought me here, only to find they have a viper in their bosom". John Charmley, interviewed by Valerie Grove. Page 12

Nigel's move: This Sunday Nigel Short, Britain's strongest ever chess Grandmaster, will begin a challenge that could lead him to a meeting with Gary Kasparov. Page 12

Raise your voice: More than half a million people in Britain sing Graham Kendrick's "pop" hymns — what is his secret? Page 13

English tests: "Such a reading list would not be a bad start for a foreigner wishing to acquire some inkling of English literature". Daniel Johnson on the texts selected for Eng Lit exams. Page 13

City walls: Pictures of 20th-century London by past and present students and staff of the Royal College of Art, including Henry Moore and Frank Auerbach, make up an exhibition at the Museum of London. Page 27

Goodbye Gillespie: Clive Davis pays tribute to the American jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie. Page 27

Looney tunes: Rock stars, already at risk of psychological and physical self-destruction through over-indulgence in drugs, are equally vulnerable to attack by pathologically devoted fans, as new books on Beach Boys-founder Brian Wilson and John Lennon make clear. Page 29

World-conquering ear: Vaughan Freeman runs an expert eye over the new Ford Mondeo and speaks to the Briton who led the design team. Page 31

Buzz off: Nick Nuttall reports on the Buzzboard, a revolutionary low-cost two-wheeler which will beat the city jams. Page 31

Look out Mario: Steve May reports on a new generation of powerful home computers from Commodore which aim to outperform Japanese video games. Page 26

Your number's up: BT is testing a service which will display a caller's telephone number. Page 26

How society can help the mentally ill to avoid further suffering in the community. Page 15

As the threat of a nuclear war recedes, the problems of a nuclear peace are growing ever more urgent. All across Europe we are facing the consequences of the rush into a nuclear age for which we are still ill-prepared. — *The European*

Why is it that the government's good intentions about safeguarding the classics has produced such dismal efforts as this anthology? It serves only to remind us of the reason why Bernard Shaw cast his undying curse on anyone who attempted to turn his works into set examination texts. — *Evening Standard*



Tributes to Rudolf Nureyev flowed in from admirers as preparations were made to bury him at the cemetery favoured by Russian emigres. Pages 1, 9



Katarina Witt, the former Olympic figure skating champion, talks of her ambition to return to Olympic competition next year. Page 36

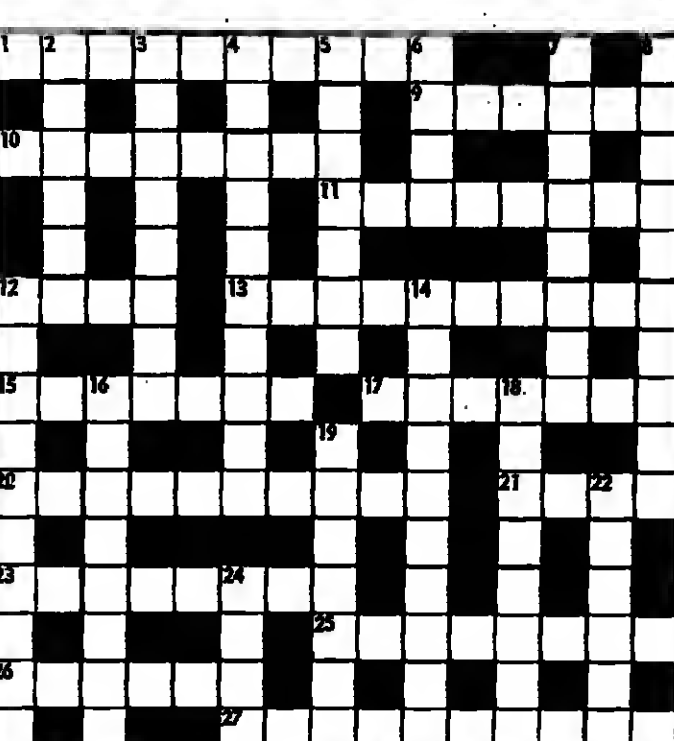


Norman Lamont was warned by one of his predecessors, Lord Howe of Aberavon, that taxes would have to rise "sooner rather than later". Page 5



The murder of Donald Urquhart in a London street was being investigated for links with another contract killing in Kennington. Page 6

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,122



- ACROSS**
- Stroke or dash (10).
 - Girl in headquarters of American army (6).
 - Ores pits put out producing quick returns (8).
 - Artist tucked into meagre fish (5-3).
 - Fabric repeatedly found in sale, not economical enough (4).
 - Choose isolated area for a dip (10).
 - Moved king to safety, escorted by company (7).
 - Cake that is produced with chocolate (7).
 - Second of two boys is back for a term (10).
 - It could be either fast or slow, almost (4).
- DOWN**
- A gun for each person (6).
 - Quickly produce something that's superb (5-3).
 - Do a critical examination in little girl's school (7).
 - Queen, an Indian leader (4).
 - Current records are so wild (8).
 - Simple way in which to find 18 people (4,6).
 - American's crazy proposal could be a moving experience (10).
 - Foreign magazine featuring Helen's marriage? (5-5).
 - Person supporting our present monarch (8).
 - Comfortable job for a boring person? (4-2-2).
 - Initially set Northern brewer a wonderful example (7).
 - Explorer in multiple North Sea disaster (6).
 - Memoirs showing animation (4).
- Solutions to Puzzle No 19,121**
- ACROSS: 1. DASH, 2. GIRL, 3. ORES, 4. FISH, 5. FABRIC, 6. DIP, 7. KING, 8. CAKE, 9. SECOND, 10. IT.
- DOWN: 1. GUN, 2. QUICK, 3. CRITICAL, 4. QUEEN, 5. RECORDS, 6. SIMPLE, 7. AMERICAN, 8. FOREIGN, 9. PERSON, 10. COMFORTABLE, 11. INITIALLY, 12. EXPLORER, 13. MEMOIRS.

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W & S Zambia	799
W & S Tanzania	800

England and Wales will be mostly dry with sunny periods, becoming cloudy over northern and western areas as rain spreads south, reaching all but the South East by midnight. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy, with showers at first, followed by rain, heavy in the northwest and turning to snow over the hills. Gales will affect the North and West. Outlook: unsettled, with rain and brighter spells.

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TER RIDDELL

ANNA PITMAN

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YESTERDAY

DAY

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Henry Moore's tube shelter drawings on show

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Witt takes first steps on road to reinstatement

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THE TIMES 2

FRIDAY JANUARY 8 1993

Lack of £2m destroyed Lilley

How the TSB blocked construction firm's rescue

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE refusal of Hill Samuel, the merchant banking arm of TSB Group, to put up to £2 million towards a rescue plan for Lilley, Scotland's largest construction company, led to the company calling in receivers.

The bank admitted it knew the implications of its decision from the start but said Lilley should have looked for the money elsewhere. Four of Lilley's six banks, including the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland, and several major shareholders agreed to put up fresh funds, but the entire refinancing was destroyed because of Hill Samuel's objection since it needed the bank's unanimous approval. Clydesdale Bank is also said to have opposed additional lending.

Price Waterhouse, the account-

ant, was appointed receiver to Lilley after a request from the company on Wednesday night. Iain Bennett, the partner in charge of the receiver-ship, said he must sell Lilley's main construction subsidiaries within a month to safeguard more than 2,000 jobs. Lilley's collapse marks the failure of months of negotiations between the company, its banks and main shareholders. Lilley wanted to hive off its low-making property business and concentrate on its profitable construction jobs.

Lilley, which had debts of £50 million, was badly hit by losses on disposals and write-downs on its property portfolio. The group estimated that its net assets had plunged from £47 million at the

beginning of 1992 to a net deficit of £13 million by the end of the year. This forced it to ask its banks to refinance its debts.

The group realised, however, it needed up to £16 million in working capital to continue trading. Last month the banks told the company that they were not prepared to lend the additional money and Lilley's management, led by Sir Lewis Robertson, began desperate talks with institutions and Cubiertas and Entrecanales, its Spanish joint venture partners, to try to organise a £12.5 million share subscription.

Mr Bennett said yesterday that the group had won a good level of support from shareholders in the short period. But it was not enough

to convince Hill Samuel to lend the remaining money needed.

A spokeswoman for the bank confirmed that the bank had rejected the group's pleas for fresh funding. "Hill Samuel agreed to the rescue package but felt unable to commit more funds. We knew the implication of our actions."

"We have been bankers to Lilley since 1988 and have been as supportive as possible in the reconstruction and would have loved to fund a solution. The money did not have to come from Hill Samuel," Hill Samuel has suffered heavily from bad debt provisions in the last 18 months and made a loss of £408 million in the year to October 1991, the largest reported by a merchant

bank. The bank is trying to reduce its loan book.

Clydesdale issued a short statement on its position: "We together with other syndicate banks were supportive of the reconstruction requirements which could not be met."

Yesterday, PW was also forced to put most of Lilley's construction subsidiaries into receivership, including Lilley National Contracting, MDW and Eden Construction. They were all profitable and cash generative and have almost £100 million of work in hand. They had, however, lent the parent company more than £50 million to fund its property development activities, and could not survive without the cash.

One of the few that survived is Robinson and Davidson in Dumfries, which employs 750 and whose balance sheet is still healthy. PW plans to sell the company intact.

Work on Lilley sites has stopped and will not restart until clients agree to continue paying. PW has arranged new overdraft facilities with the Bank of Scotland to fund the sites, but the receivers are expected to demand up-front deposits or early payments from customers before they continue.

Mr Bennett said he hoped to sell the subsidiaries whole, together with the trading names and staff. "We have already had a lot of interest in the companies, but their credibility will ebb away rapidly and we are looking to achieve sales in a matter of a few weeks," he said.

Builders gloomy, page 21
Comment, page 23

BUSINESS TODAY

LEAKING



The flood of names leaving the Lloyd's insurance market has eased but underwriting capacity is still under pressure. Page 21

SINKING

Airtrons' shares fell amid fears that the company may have to pay over the odds for Owners Abroad Markets, page 22

COMPLAINING



British Airways called for an end to government subsidies for Europe's state-owned airlines. Page 20

TOMORROW



Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has a personal fortune yet drives a five-year-old Ford Fiesta.

Bundesbank cuts key lending rate to save the ERM

By JANET BUSH AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE Bundesbank sanctioned a surprise cut in one of its key interest rates, to avoid the collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism. The decision was made amid mounting international pressure and eye-dropper that the German economy is on the brink of its worst recession since the second world war.

There was no cut in official rates, but the Bundesbank announced a rate reduction on securities repurchase agreements. Those are the most important money market instruments, through which the Bundesbank supplies liquidity to the banking system. The repo rate was cut from 8.75 to 8.6 per cent. Economists in Frankfurt said the cut was likely to be the first of several this year.

The decision signals the gradual demise of the Bundesbank hardliners. Germany's central bank is known to be split between hardliners, who view interest rates exclusively in the light of domestic inflation and monetary growth, and moderates, who are influenced to a greater degree by the real economy and by international factors.

The cut may have been enough to save at least the hard core of the exchange-rate mechanism from disintegration. The French franc, the

main target of currency speculators since the new year, strengthened.

Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank's president, made clear that the decision had been taken to protect the exchange-rate mechanism. President François Mitterrand said that if France did not stand up to speculators, the ERM would collapse. Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, said he was determined to save off further assaults on the franc.

The Bundesbank's move was accompanied by small rate cuts in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Austria. In contrast, the Irish authorities were forced to raise rates on overnight money to 100 per cent to stave off speculation against the punt, which languished at or below its ERM floor all day.

Ireland abolished remaining exchange controls on January 1 and promised to use higher interest rates to deter speculators. It is doubtful, however, whether the Irish authorities can hold out against devaluation much longer.

Economists said the Bundesbank's move was the first step towards lower interest rates across Europe, though it would be mistaken to expect further drastic rate

cuts in Germany very soon. John Hall, of Swiss Bank Corporation, viewed the Bundesbank's action as a signal that it would not accept a devaluation of the franc. "There is now a clear end in sight in the battle for the franc," he said.

At the close of trading, the franc was quoted at 3.3970 to the mark, the furthest away from its ERM floor for some time. The punt recovered a little after the rise in overnight rates, closing at about DM2.6310, compared with its DM2.6190 floor.

The dollar strengthened on the back of strong economic data, including a sharp fall in jobless claims in the week to December 26. Sterling slipped back to DM2.5065, from DM2.5180 at Wednesday's close.

The news of the small German rate cut was accompanied by further indications that the German recession is going to prove even more devastating than had been feared.

Figures released yesterday suggest that industrial orders plummeted towards the end of last year. Unemployment in western Germany leapt from 6.9 to 7.4 per cent, crossing the 2 million threshold for the first time in more than three years.

Economists tell Lamont to go

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT



Lamont: few want him

AS THE Chancellor prepares for a meeting with his advisers this weekend to start planning the Budget, a large majority of top City economists are saying it should be his last Budget.

In a survey by Reuters, published yesterday, 16 out of 20 leading economists in the City said Mr Lamont should step down after delivering his Budget in March. They argued that his credibility had been so tarnished by sterling's abrupt departure from the exchange-rate mechanism that financial markets no longer believed his policy

statements. "The markets are looking for someone they can have more faith in," said Ruth Lea, chief economist at Mitsubishi Bank in London. Her view was echoed by Robin Marshall, of Chase Manhattan. Three of the 20 economists surveyed said Mr Lamont should stay. One argued that it would be unfair to make him the scapegoat for the failure of the government's policies; another said there was no obvious replacement.

This survey follows one of 29 industry leaders, 17 of whom said he should go.

House prices still falling

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

HOUSE prices fell by 0.6 per cent in December according to figures from the Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender.

The fall during 1992 averaged 7.8 per cent, compared with an annual fall of 7.9 per cent at the end of November. Nationwide Building Society recorded a fall of 0.2 per cent during December.

The Halifax had reported a rise in prices of 0.1 per cent in November.

The 0.6 per cent fall is seasonally adjusted because house prices are normally

weaker during the winter. Without adjustment, the fall amounted to 1.1 per cent.

First-time buyers are seeking bargains, with prices paid by them even lower, at 8.7 per cent below levels seen a year ago.

New properties have held up more firmly, losing 2.7 per cent to £67,023 at the end of December. Properties bought by first-time buyers averaged £44,297.

The Halifax expects house prices to stabilise in the spring as the number of transactions increases, then to show some

increases in the second half of the year. This would lead to a more sustained recovery in 1994, the society says.

There are approximately 225,000 unoccupied houses on the market that will need to be sold before the market can begin to recover.

Mortgage lenders have a stock of about 70,000 repossessed properties to sell. These properties can depress valuations in the wider market as valuers place cautious prices on houses and may use distress sales as guidance for a valuation.

Burton to cut 2,000 full-time workers

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Burton Group is shedding almost 2,000 jobs, cutting a huge swathe through the London headquarters and increasing sharply the number of part-time staff employed by the fashion retailer.

The cuts will save between £10 million and £15 million a year, depending on how many of the 1,000 full-time shop workers who will lose their jobs opt to take redundancy and how many decide to work part-time. A total of 933 people, including two main board directors, will also go at Burton's Oxford Street head office, representing a quarter of those employed there.

The shop workers will be replaced by 3,000 part-time staff, employed at the same hourly rates as full-timers. The company is also standardising employment terms and benefits at each of its nine trading subsidiaries. Salaries will not be cut, said John Hoerner, the chief executive, but he accepted that some employees' take-home pay would shrink. No further shop closures were planned.

The two directors losing their jobs are Geoff Powell, operations director, and John Davies, company secretary.

Frank Dobson, the shadow employment secretary, said: "It is a good job Burton's clothes are not as shabby as the way they are treating their staff."

The move reduced employees' pay and cut their entitlement to benefits and job security, he added.

Officials from Unswag, the shopworkers' union, will meet Burton today for talks.

Part-time pursuit, page 23

WHAT TO DO WHEN INTEREST RATES LOSE THEIR INTEREST

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MacGregor attacks airline subsidies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

A CONCERTED attack on the continuing subsidies being paid to Europe's state-owned "flag carrier" airlines was launched yesterday by John MacGregor, the transport secretary, and Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways.

Speaking at a conference on airline liberalisation in Brussels, Mr MacGregor said it was too easy for national governments to see airlines as symbols of national prestige. "This leads to the promotion of national 'flag carriers,' their protection against competition from other airlines and their protection from commercial pressures by governments who are always ready to bail them out when things go wrong."

Cash injections to such airlines, including Air France, Alitalia, Lufthansa, Olympic and Iberia, on terms not available in the private sector, were unfair. State aid is forbidden under the Treaty of Rome but this is being widely ignored in the aviation industry. "We cannot allow the new single market in aviation to be dis-

Britain complains fair competition among European airlines is impossible while state-owned carriers have access to government subsidies to bail them out

toried by state aids," he said.

His views were echoed by BA's chief executive, who said fair competition was impossible because of preferential financial arrangements given to government-owned airlines. Sir Colin said: "Any injection of government funds should be examined thoroughly by impartial banking advisers appointed by the commission. Unless it can be established that the airline concerned is viable by normal commercial standards then money from government should be withheld."

Heavy-handed bureaucracy and lack of infrastructure were costing BA many millions a year and creating an air travel mountain. "Huge amounts of potential air transport production remain grounded because the means to get it into the air and into the hands of the consumer are artificially con-

strained." More airport capacity had to be provided.

Delays in air transport were costing Europe's economy £3 billion a year, he said. "If nothing is done that burden will increase to an annual £10 billion by the year 2000."

BA alone was burning 60,000 tons of additional fuel because its aircraft were forced to stack while waiting to land at Heathrow and Gatwick. "If the Community is prepared to invest heavily in high-speed rail links it should consider similar funding for improved air transport infrastructure."

BA's European services from Heathrow and Gatwick airports will grow 23 per cent from the beginning of the 1993 summer season, Sir Colin said. British Airways Regional will produce 15 per cent more capacity on EC routes from Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester.



Hoping for an upturn in consumer confidence: Peter Vardy, chairman of Reg Vardy

Vardy looks for strong sales drive

INTEREST rate cuts and the removal of special car tax came too late to help first-half sales at Reg Vardy, but the Tyne & Wear motor dealer expects them to boost demand for new vehicles this year (Philip Pangalos writes).

Lack of consumer confidence undermined business during the period and manu-

facturers' attempts to raise demand via price cuts made little impact on sales and depressed used car prices.

This [price cuts] has not compensated for the consumer's loss of confidence and has served to undermine used values, said Peter Vardy, chairman.

After a £500,000 write-

down on used car stocks, pre-tax profits fell 8 per cent to £1.85 million in the six months to end-October, despite turnover ahead 12.9 per cent at £108 million.

Earnings per share, on a greater number in issue, fell to 3.01p (4.22p), but the interim dividend is held at 1.3p. The shares fell 8p to 125p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Savills moves back into the black at half time

SAVILLS, the estate agent and chartered surveyor, has returned to the black for the first time since 1990 despite continued gloom in the property market. The company reported pre-tax profits of £163,000 for the six months to the end of October compared with a loss of £762,000 last time. Turnover rose marginally to £11.9 million.

Savills has decided not to pay an interim dividend, given depressed market conditions, although George Inge, chairman, says it is "quite possible" a final dividend will be paid. The last dividend, paid in 1989, was 3.5p. Commercial profits were £250,000 against a £322,000 loss last time, largely due to increased ratings business relating to 1990 valuations on the uniform business rate. Losses in agricultural and residential fell from £512,000 to £176,000.

Trust bid closing date

THE Ecclesiastical Insurance Office's £44.1 million bid for St Andrew Trust, a smaller company investment trust, reaches its first closing date today. EIO, owned by Allchurches Trust, a registered charity, seeks to increase its holding from 40 per cent to more than half. Small shareholders complain that they have had only five working days in which to make up their minds. The trust's independent directors have refused to recommend the bid, which values the shares at 215p. They closed at 220p yesterday.

Abbey moves ahead

HIGHER interest receipts of Ir£772,000 (£738,109) against Ir£448,000, helped Abbey, the Irish housebuilder and plant hire group, to buck the trend with a 36.5 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to Ir£501,000 in the six months to end-October. The Dublin company made a trading profit of Ir£729,000, against a loss of Ir£81,000 last time, despite a decline in turnover to Ir£17.8 million (Ir£20.1 million). There is a Ir£1 million provision, reflecting a revaluation of a recently-let property and eps fell to 0.43p (0.63p). Again, there is no interim, but a final dividend is expected.

Credit card jobs to go

ABOUT 460 jobs are to be cut by First Data Resources, a credit card processing company. Volunteers will be sought before the company, which is based in Essex, considers compulsory redundancies. A spokeswoman said business in 1993 was not expected to be sufficient to keep existing staff busy. The workforce will be about 1,900 after the job losses. The Banking Insurance and Finance Union will be approaching local MPs to see if any action can be taken to save jobs. A meeting with the company is due to take place next Friday.

Sales rise at Kwik Save

DEREK Pretty, right, finance director of Kwik Save, the discount food retailer, told the company's annual meeting that sales in the first 18 weeks of the current trading year had risen by more than 15 per cent. Kwik Save's like-for-like sales growth falls to 8 per cent when turnover from its 17 new stores is stripped out. Mr Pretty said the group reserved the right to open on Sundays if competitive pressures made that necessary.



Funeral firm bought

GREAT Southern Group, the USM quoted funeral services company, has acquired 75 per cent of TJ Davies & Sons (Funeral Directors), a family run business in Newport, Gwent, for £450,000. Great Southern has also bought a related property in Newport for £140,000 and has an option to acquire the remaining 25 per cent of TJ Davies shares in November 1994. The acquisition complements three existing businesses in Cardiff and Gwent.

Druck earnings fall

DRUCK Holdings, the pressure-measuring devices manufacturer, saw pre-tax profits fall to £1.75 million (£2.4 million) in the six months to end-September and has held its interim at 3.4p a share. But healthy prospects for new orders left the shares 43p higher at 913p. Turnover slipped 6 per cent to £12.7 million (£13.5 million). Earnings per share declined to 18p (23.3p). Orders were 6 per cent ahead and have moved further ahead since September.

Christopher Stainforth

IN OUR business review of 1992 entitled "Billion-dollar man who came in from the cold" (December 28), we incorrectly stated that Mr Christopher Stainforth had been convicted of conspiracy to defraud in the Blue Arrow trial. In fact, Mr Stainforth was not convicted of any offence; we apologise to him for the mistake and for the embarrassment caused to him.

Air Canada brings hope to Continental

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

New life was breathed into Continental Airlines, the bankrupt US carrier, yesterday as aviation regulators allowed a foreign carrier to gain a majority voting stake through partnership with American citizens.

Andrew Card, the outgoing transportation secretary, sanctioned a \$450 million investment in the ailing carrier from Canada's largest airline, Air Canada, and an investment group called Air Partners formed by two American citizens.

The two companies will control 65 per cent of Continental's votes and 55 per cent of its equity. The deal is the first foreign airline investment approved since British Airways withdrew its \$750 million alliance with USAir after strong indications that the deal would not get approval from Washington.

While BA's proposal was within the American limits of voting and equity, other parts of the deal raised questions

over whether USAir would remain in control of US citizens. By combining with two American investors, the structure of Air Canada's deal raises no questions of American ownership.

Mr Card said: "This finding reaffirms the Bush administration's openness to foreign investment in US airlines."

Air Canada says it brought in Air Partners controlled by 49-year-old David Bonderman and 32-year-old James Coulter — because of the its expertise in corporate reconstructions.

Mr Bonderman is a former Washington lawyer who served as chief counsel to Braniff International during that airline's restructuring. Mr Coulter was an analyst with Shearson Lehman, the stockbroker, where he was an analyst specialising in takeovers. Both are connected to the Bass organisation, an investment company run by Robert Bass, the Texas billionaire.

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Only 75 names join Lloyd's

Recruits far short of 1,750 who left

By Sarah Bagnall

ONLY 75 new names stepped forward last year to fill the gap left by the estimated 1,750 names who pulled out of underwriting at the Lloyd's market, the corporation revealed yesterday.

The number of new names has fallen dramatically since the peak recruitment years of the late 1980s and has dropped by more than a quarter over the last year from 105. However, the flood of names leaving the 300-year old market appears to be past its zenith — 3,928 names resigned from underwriting in the 1992 year of account. The changes are expected to reduce the total number of names to about 20,000 compared with 22,000 in 1992 and more than 28,000 in 1990.

David Rowland, Lloyd's new chairman, said that, as a result, the market's total underwriting capacity is expected to be between £8.5 billion and £9 billion, down from £9.53 billion, although market commentators believe it will be nearer the smaller figure. The final figure is expected in late April.

The average underwriting capacity of the new names is £470,000, which is the average underwriting capacity for the market as a whole, while the average of the resigned names is £31,300.

The council of Lloyd's yesterday approved the appointments of 16 members to the newly established regulatory board, which is to be responsible for developing regulatory practice and monitoring compliance throughout the society. The setting up of the board, which meets for the first time on Monday, was recommended in the Morse report published last year. Brian Garraway, a former deputy chairman of BAT Industries, is the board's chairman.

Among the members are four market practitioners, brought in to ensure that each

part of the Lloyd's market has a voice. Paul Archard, managing director at Murray Lawrence and the 1992 chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents Association, will represent members agents; Richard Hazell, a director at Cater Allen and until this year a deputy chairman of the Lloyd's council, will represent managing agents; Anthony Howland Jackson, chief executive and deputy chairman at Hogg Group and a member of the Lloyd's insurance brokers committee, will represent brokers and George Lloyd-Roberts, a director at Lloyd-Roberts & Gilkes and last year's chairman of Lloyd's non-marine association, will represent underwriters.

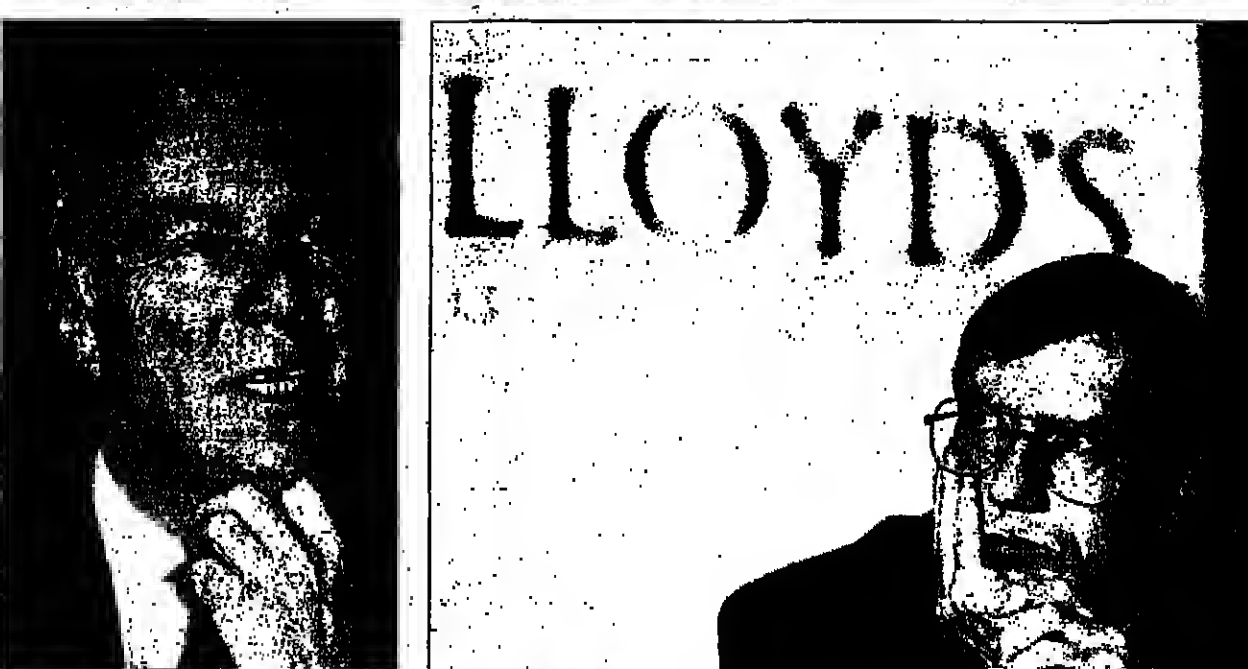
Underwriter Stephen Merrett, the new deputy chairman of Lloyd's, looks set to be sued by disgruntled names after they successfully raised a fighting fund.

Last month, more than 700 names from syndicate 418 were asked to dig into their pockets and provide £4.5 million, the first tranche of which is due today.

Clive Francis, administrator to syndicate 418 names' association, said this has been paid up, enabling the planned legal action to go ahead against Mr Merrett and the syndicate's auditor, Ernst & Whinney, now part of Ernst & Young.

The proposed action against Mr Merrett is over his decision to insure US casualty risks, mainly pollution and asbestos.

There is some concern that the syndicate, which is a leading errors and omissions insurer providing cover for members' agents and accountants' professional indemnity, may have written insurance for the syndicate's own members' agent and auditor. However, the level is thought to be well below the 10 per cent maximum Lloyd's by-laws allow for self-insurance by a members' agent.



Leading lights at Lloyd's: Brian Garraway, top, chairman of the newly established regulatory board, David Rowland, the new chairman of Lloyd's, bottom left, and Peter Middleton, the insurance market's chief executive

Builders brace themselves for more disasters

By Philip Pangalos

AFTER one of the worst years for the recession-torn construction industry, builders are now bracing themselves for more bankruptcies and job losses in 1993, according to a survey in today's *Building* magazine.

Almost one in five of 80 firms questioned in a Gallup trade poll believe that matters would get even worse this year. Most agree that 1993 will be tough. Some 55 per cent expect a higher rate of insolvencies, while 63 per cent believe that takeover activity will increase.

There is some optimism in the air, with 53 per cent of those questioned thinking that the UK construction industry would do "a little better" in 1993 following a three-and-a-half year slump which has seen more than 400,000 jobs lost.

But the survey warns that "meaningful recovery" was still some way off, with one in four firms not expecting an

upturn until the second half of 1994. A third of the firms surveyed predict that the economic situation will stay the same, or get worse. Two out of five firms are planning to cut staff, with 83 per cent of materials producers predicting job losses. Housebuilders are the industry's optimists, with more than half expecting sales to be a little higher in 1993, while 45 per cent feel that house prices will improve a little in 1993.

"Housebuilding is the only area in the UK that is likely to show reasonable improvement this year," said Mark Hake, building analyst at Nikko, the Japanese stockbroker. Building material producers, however, are pessimistic, with 42 per cent predicting sales will fall by between one and 5 per cent over the next three months, while 11 per cent think sales will decline by over 11 per cent.

Appeal delays payout to creditors of BCCI

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE \$3 billion compensation scheme for creditors in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International has been thrown into doubt after three depositors appealed against the decision by the Luxembourg court to approve the proposals.

The appeal will delay an \$800 million payment by the government of Abu Dhabi, BCCI's majority shareholder, into the compensation fund and cost depositors an estimated \$1 million a week in lost interest.

The appeal could take more than six months before it comes to court and is likely to prevent Touche Ross, the liquidator, making any payment to creditors until early 1994, even though more than 90 per cent of BCCI depositors have voted in favour of the propos-

al. The appeal will also cost millions of dollars in additional liquidation and legal fees. Touche still has more than 150 staff working on the case. The appeal is led by Adil Elias, an engineering consultant from Florida, who has opposed the scheme throughout. The appeal document claims the plans "contravene the principle of equality among creditors" and accuses the Abu Dhabi government of illegally retaining documents on the bank. Mr Elias is supported by Hal Skolnik, a businessman, and Assilios Araki, a Greek insurance broker.

The situation could throw the entire compensation scheme into doubt, since the agreement with the Abu Dhabi government expired in June and has been extended only as a gesture of goodwill.

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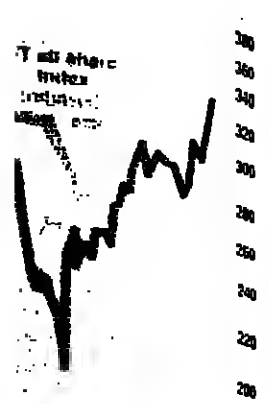
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REET

Spectres round Lilley's sickbed

Hill Samuel and its parent TSB seem to be as inept in reining back their commercial bank lending as they were in expanding it. The collapse of rescue plans for Lilley for the sake of a relatively modest increase in exposure by Hill Samuel contrasts strongly with Barclays' behaviour over the Imry property group, where Barclays wrote off nearly £200 million and kept the main company going. The calculation for banks must, however, be a commercial one: that they are likely to secure more of their loans by offering patience and support for refinancing than by giving up at the bottom of the market. Hill Samuel and National Australia Bank's similarly sceptical Clydesdale subsidiary disagreed. No blame attaches to them for the collapse of Lilley and the potential loss of 2,000 jobs in viable trading subsidiaries with £190 million of contracts.

There have been plenty of instances during the recession of banks pulling the rug from under businesses, usually small businesses, by withdrawing facilities or imposing impossible new conditions on them. In other cases, selfish banks in a syndicate have been unwilling to ease terms to keep a company in temporary difficulties afloat. Neither of these appears to be the case with Lilley. Rather, lenders were being asked to provide some new money to make up a large deficiency of equity capital. That is not their responsibility, although it is often commercially sensible for them to act as surrogate shareholders, and might well have been in this case. Banks may have more to lose than shareholders from insolvency. That does not shift the responsibility from a board and the members of a company to keep it afloat if they think that is a proper use of risk capital.

Leading shareholders were willing to provide more money for Lilley, but not enough to make the group solvent. Either the board could not make a strong enough case or it did not act early enough to trawl all potential sources of new equity. If a bank does not care to fill that gap, its commercial judgment may be challenged, especially if it rocks the boat when most other banks and those with more at stake think otherwise. It does not carry some ill-defined moral blame for the economic damage.

Clearing the air

Lloyd's is likely to trade in the 1993 underwriting year with about 20,000 underwriting Names, compared with 28,000 operating in 1990. The drop in capacity will be nothing like so startling, but still worrying. While fewer Names have resigned, or been forced to resign, the intake of new blood has been reduced to a trickle of 75, against 105 a year ago. That is hardly surprising given the horror stories, rows, threats and lawsuits that filled last year. For all the rationalisations about removing excess capacity and the temptations it brought to professionals, Lloyd's will enter the upturn in the insurance cycle in a relatively weaker state.

There is a new feeling in the air in Lime Street, albeit too late to affect sentiment among potential 1993 Names. The arrival of a new team has much to do with this. David Rowland, the new chairman, and Peter Middleton, his refreshingly unbureaucratic new chief executive, have symbolically ended the defensive phase forced on their predecessors, who had to fight tough for the market's survival. While many Names are suffering grievously, Lloyd's can now be more flexible in helping them. Yesterday, Lloyd's also set the seal on separation of regulation from market management by completing its new regulatory board under Brian Garraway, long-time finance director of BAT. The suspicious may question its composition, including four representatives of the professional groups, but the board's clear focus on regulation should help rebuild Names' confidence. That is vital. An influx of new Names is the best way to sustain long-term capacity.

Burton pursues part-time workforce in search of a full-time recovery

While some see part-time work as the route out of recession, others claim it is a cynical cost-cutting exercise, writes Philip Bassett

For 1,000 Burton workers whose redundancies were announced yesterday, the recession looks far from over. But the clothing chain's creation at the same time of 3,000 part-time jobs underlines a little-noticed trend at a time of rising overall unemployment — a marked increase in part-time work that may, as it did a decade ago, preface economic recovery.

Labour and the trade unions attacked Burton's move. Frank Dobson, shadow employment secretary, said it was "a good job Burton's clothes are not as shabby as the way they are treating their staff", while Uddaw, the shopworkers' union, whose officials will meet Burton's today for talks on the job losses, made clear its concern about the move from full- to part-time employment.

The shift to part-time work is attractive to companies for a raft of financial, operational and legal reasons. Firstly, part-timers cost less. According to official government New Earnings Survey figures, average weekly pay for a part-time male worker is £51.40; a company can get five of them, with more hours of work in total from them, for the price of the £288.90 listed for an equivalent full-timer.

Their secondary costs are less, too — especially employers' national insurance contributions. NI payments are currently triggered when an employee's gross earnings rise above an annually-set lower earnings limit. The current figure of £54 a week is significantly just a little above the male part-time earnings figure — suggesting that no NI is due for male part-timers at least.



Wrapped up in less work as now, part-time employment grew as Britain climbed out of the last recession

Most part-timers, of course, are women — 4.6 million women to 1.1 million men — and women's earnings are broadly lower than men's. Currently, average weekly earnings for women stand at £241.10, compared to £340.10 for men. For many companies, especially in light manufacturing and the service sector, part-time women workers are traditionally a far more cost-effective use of labour.

Getting rid of part-timers is easier for employers, too. Crucially, part-timers working fewer than 16 hours a week are not entitled to any statutory redundancy payments. Forty per cent of all part-time women workers, according to the New Earnings Survey — which itself is seen by some as having an unsatisfactory coverage of part-timers — work for 16 hours or less. Such legal and financial points are important for employers (and irritating to full-time workers and their unions, many of whom have traditionally seen part-time work as unfairly disadvantaged and as undercutting the position of full-timers). Companies that move a number of employees from full-time to part-time work will clearly reap a substantial saving — important during a long

and hard recession. But an overriding attraction of part-time work to companies is greater workforce flexibility. A familiar sight as one walks along a high street is that of shop assistants hanging around inside stores, waiting to pounce on those potential customers that may happen by. Necessary, of course: customers need to be serviced, and sold to. But customer demand is uneven, with clear peaks and troughs. Burton said yesterday that its peak demand levels are between 11am and 4pm on weekdays (lunchtime and general shopping) and on Saturdays; its available labour force needed to be adjusted to that pattern.

Along the high street, Burton may be slow off the mark in doing that. The company said yesterday that before the changes it was announcing, it had 18,091 full-timers and 17,873 working part-time. Compare that to say, Marks and Spencer. M&S has nearly twice the number of part-timers as full-timers: 35,668 compared to 19,522. Being able to bring in part-timers to work only Saturdays, for instance, or to meet

peak demand periods and store locations, gives stores such as M&S considerable flexibility to meet customers' changes in demand. Similarly, two thirds of the 90,000 staff at Sainsbury's is made up of part-timers. But the idea of workforce flexibility, which gained real ground in the eighties, is firmly embedded not just in retailing, but throughout much of British industry.

A new study* to be published next week by the Institute of Public Policy Research, the left-of-centre think tank, will suggest that only a third of all British employees now work a standard, 9-to-5, Monday-to-Friday week — though this covers temporary and shift workers, as well as part-timers. Employees, especially women workers trying to juggle the often-conflicting demands of home, family and job, often like working part-time — using part-time jobs to fit work into their lives. According to research for the British Social Attitudes survey, 68 per cent of people in Britain believe that women should work part time.

but only when her children have started school. The proportion believing that women with pre-school children should take on part-time work is much lower, at 26 per cent. Many companies believe that in an environment where the customer is king, and where customer demand fluctuates, the most flexible workforce possible is necessary to meet that demand. While few companies followed the fully-flexible model of workforce organisation that was much-touted in the eighties, with a small core workforce and around it a galaxy of peripheral workers, including part-timers, drawn in as necessary to meet demand, it is clear that workforce flexibility has increased sharply over the last decade or so.

Britain is among the leaders of the industrialised world in this trend. Here, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, part-time work as a proportion of total employment rose from 16.4 per cent in 1979 to 21.8 per cent by 1990. By comparison, the proportion in Japan rose from 15.4 to 17.6 per cent, and in Germany

from 11.4 to 13.2 per cent. In America, part-time work levels were all but static, edging ahead from 16.4 to 16.9 per cent.

Though Labour derided the trend as producing little but pin-money jobs, the Conservative government proudly pointed to its job creation record in the mid-eighties — largely part-time. After the huge labour shakeout in the recession of the early eighties, employment started to grow slowly but gradually from 1983 onwards. Part-time working led the way. In the four years from March 1983, part-time employment rose by more than 550,000. Even when unemployment started to rise again in this recession, part-time work kept on growing. From March 1990 to September last year, part-time employment in Britain rose by 137,000, while total UK employment increased by 1.2 million. Companies were shedding large numbers of employees but continuing to take on part-timers.

Take another high street retailer, John Lewis. On the basis of its employee numbers, the JL partnership does not adhere as closely to the concept of maximum workforce flexibility as some of its competitors. It has a much smaller proportion of part-timers.

In its Waitrose grocery chain, there are about 6,500 full-time staff and 5,500 part-timers, while across its department stores like Peter Jones and John Lewis shops there are more than 13,000 full-timers, compared to 4,000 part-time staff.

But if its overall proportions are still lower than others, John Lewis has seen a marked increase in its part-timers, even in the recession. From 1987 to 1991, its full-time workforce grew by 9.6 per cent. But the number of its part-timers, excluding all temporary workers, grew by much more — as much as 29.5 per cent.

Whether the overall increase in part-timers across UK business gives any indication about a recovery in the economy is open to question. Conservative supporters believe the continuing relative strength of part-time employment, and moves such as Burton's yesterday, indicate the imminence of economic recovery. Critics of the Conservatives believe that the continued small growth in part-time work simply indicates desperate family dependence upon it at a time when many male employees have been thrown out of their principal bread-winning jobs, that moves like Burton's are little more than a cynical attempt to cut costs by reducing employee pay and conditions, and that the recovery is as far away as ever.

What happens in the economy for the rest of this year may give some clue as to who is right. But with Labour warning yesterday of a quarter of a million jobs at risk, and total unemployment set to top 3 million over the next few months, those Burton employees managing to keep their jobs — albeit at the cost of switching from full- to part-time work — may well feel that they have been hit less hard than some in these tough times.

**About Time: The Revolution in Work and Family Time, by Patricia Hewitt. IPPR/Rivers Oram, £9.95.*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Handicap for Rigby's golf

THERE is growing intrigue within the chemicals industry around rumours that BASF, one of the sector's leaders, may be about to take over ICI's polypropylene business. Bryan Rigby, BASF's managing director, who celebrates his 60th birthday tomorrow, has fuelled such speculation by admitting he is unsure as to whether he will now be able to seek the quieter life in the form of semi-retirement. He declines to comment on the version of events put forward by the rumour-mongers, that with such a big project on his hands (the polypropylene acquisition), he will have little time left to improve his golf. "Obviously, there are rumours around," he says. Rigby, the deputy director general of the CBI for five years from 1978, and still a member of the CBI Europe Committee, is much happier to talk about his birthday. "I believe there will be a party for three or four dozen friends, but my wife is keeping me in the dark — I'll be taken there blindfolded." As for that other matter, a BASF announcement is expected soon.



half years ago, was due to leave in March to run the newspaper's New York bureau. To his horror, on the day that he broke a story guaranteeing to make the two airlines hopping mad, he discovered his trip has been brought forward — to the end of next week. Much of yesterday's work, he says, spent frantically trying to find a carrier willing to take him. "It has been suggested to me by Richard Branson and Lord King that I should leave the country immediately," quips Yelland, who is confident of finding a seat in the end. "Perhaps they will offer me a one-way ticket."

Grounded

YESTERDAY'S front page story in the *Sun* about the imminent High Court tussle between Virgin Atlantic and its arch-rival British Airways may have an unpleasant spin-off for David Yelland, the newspaper's City editor. Yelland, who joined the *Sun* in 1982,

Call me Michael

BURSTING with entrepreneurial enthusiasm, 1,000 young Russian professionals are set to descend on British companies and institutions over the next three years under the Chancellor's Financial Sector Scheme. The brain-

child of Norman Lamont, the scheme is intended to educate managers from the former Soviet Union, and primarily Russia, in the ways of the UK financial sector. Candidates are jointly funded by the government's Know How Fund and participant companies, while the British Council is to administer the scheme. Among the first to arrive in the City is Mikhail Timonov, a specialist in long term credit and investment from Moscow's Tera Bank. Timonov, who prefers to be known as Michael among his English colleagues, will spend six months working at Close Brothers, the merchant bank.

Taxing role

YET more evidence that accountants are not nearly as boring as commonly thought. At the Sedgwick Centre on the outskirts of the City this week, 700 underprivileged children have been rolling up for Coopers & Lybrand's annual pantomime. Taking a star role in this year's production, *Dick Whittington*, is David Richards, a tax partner, who has had to endure a certain amount of ribbing from colleagues over his role as Idle Jack. The production has been further assisted by Mike Sullivan on keyboards and Chris Winslett on guitar. Meanwhile Richards, 41, has proposed each night to one of a handful of young girls brought on stage from the audience — and has been rejected every time.

Some suffer from interest rate cuts

From Mr David Cooke
Sir, Will the seven handpicked "wise" men (referred to on January 2) also be advising on how further reduction in interest rates will assist those who rely on interest income in order to maintain living standards?

A vast number of people now have capital received from redundancy and severance payments and "money purchase" personal pension schemes. The personal pension schemes were actively encouraged by the present government. Those who have been affected by redundancy or retired early have been taken out of the job market, thus mitigating to some extent the increasingly high unemployment in the country.

To these groups, it would appear cynical, on the part of government, if their interests were not taken into account by protecting this part of their incomes. There is an obvious

Major off the mark on rates

From Mr N.J. Daykin
Sir, On the front page of *The Times* (January 2) you report the Prime Minister's statement that interest rates are "at 7 per cent", this figure being part of a "benign combination of circumstances".

There may be an element of truth in the Prime Minister's percentage, but, in practice, is not the upwards of 1.5 percentage points off the interest rates charged by the lending institutions — about 20-odd per cent out?

When reviewing the state of the economy, can Mr Major try to give an APR? You know — base, plus charges, plus, well, what figures do the lenders have in mind?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS DAYKIN,
6 Elvedon Close,
Norwich.

P&O passenger figures are accurate

From Mr Ian Todd
Sir, Reference the report in *The Times* (January 1) headlined "P&O ends ferries on Dover-Boulogne run".

This report contains a quote from Stena Sealink describing our traffic figures as "wild and inaccurate". Our figures are absolutely correct. We said that we "carry three times as much traffic between Dover and France as our nearest competitor".

There are three "competitors" at Dover — P&O European Ferries, Stena Sealink and SNAT. Sealink is simply a marketing name covering two separate ferry operators, Swedish-owned Stena Sealink and French-owned SNAT.

Passenger carrying figures for 1992, collated from Dover Harbour Board, Calais and Boulogne chambers of commerce, P&O and Sealink show:

Dover-Calais: P&O EF..... 7.4 million

Stena Sealink..... 2.62 million

SNAT..... 2.62 million

Dover-Boulogne: P&O EF 1.1 million (the vast majority of these will now transfer to P&O European Ferries Dover-Calais service).

You can see that our total carryings Dover-France were 8.5 million. Sealink quotes a figure of 5.25 million which is in fact a combination of carryings by Stena Sealink and SNAT — two entirely separate companies.

Three times 2.62 is 7.86, less than our total of 8.5 million. It is therefore entirely true to say, "P&O European Ferries carries three times as much traffic between Dover and France as its nearest competitor".

Yours faithfully,
IAN TODD,
Head of Information,
P&O European Ferries Ltd,
Channel House,
Channel View Road,
Dover, Kent.

Shedding some new light on monetary value

From J. M. H. Wright
Sir, The absolute measure of monetary value may be beyond our reach, but I can offer you, and Mr Sozu (Business Letters January 6), one that could last out our time and more. Just pay me in kilowatt hours of electricity, deliverable from any national grid in the world, and tradable to a third party, and let me pay my bills with them.

If this were possible, governments would not dare to print money that they couldn't back. Nor would they dare to close down their real reserves of real wealth, since they could put a real figure on the value of coal and oil and other energy

Losers from Abbey share distribution

From Margaret Marshall
Sir, With reference to Mrs Margaret Clarke's letter (December 15) about two categories of people who lost in the original distribution of Abbey National shares, I can add a third category.

I was the first named signatory of a Charity account and felt honour-bound to give the charity the allocation.

I therefore had no shares myself; in spite of having three separate Abbey accounts of my own.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET MARSHALL,
2 Cairnshill Avenue,
Belfast.

Shutting up shop for a long Christmas

From Mr Rodney D. Farmer
Sir, With reference to Mr Edward Addison's letter (January 5th) I would like to fully endorse his comments, and confirm that nearly all our Italian suppliers are also closed until January 11. Furthermore, the same applies to most of our German suppliers, many of whom closed on Friday December 18, 1992, making a full three week shutdown.

This has been the pattern for some years now, and it is totally exasperating to read or hear the annual media reports which appear to enjoy running down British industry.

Our own company Christ-

mas shutdown, as I am sure, is the case for most other manufacturers, forms part of the annual holiday and is not "extra" holiday.

Perhaps a more positive attitude from everyone, and the media in particular, will ensure that we at long last see an end to the severe difficulties of the last three years.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY D. FARMER,
Joint Managing Director,
Interwood Limited,
Special Woodworking Machinery,
Stafford Avenue,
Hornchurch,
Essex.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Mal	Office	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	298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Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 81.8 (day's range 81.8-81.9).																	
Mid Rates for Jan 7		Range	Close	1 month	3 month												
Amsterdam	2.8197-2.8284	2.8107-2.8277	1=40s	1=40s	1=40s												
Brussels	51.48-51.51	51.50-51.59	5=2ds	24=2ds	24=2ds												
Frankfurt	2.8196-2.8266	0.7120-0.7350	0=1=10s	195=24=10s	195=24=10s												
London	0.7254-0.7360	0.0510-0.0519	200=170s	276=180s	276=180s												
Paris	2.5143-2.5203	2.5145-2.5178	1=1ds	1=1ds	1=1ds												
Stockholm	296.04-296.06	296.04-296.06	1=1ds	1=1ds	1=1ds												
Zurich	178.04-178.05	178.04-178.93	125=154s	414=448s	414=448s												
Madrid	232.00-232.05	232.00-232.00	0=0.003pr	0=0.010pr	0=0.010pr												
Milan	1.5862-1.5911	1.5851-1.5859	0=1=40s	51=37ds	51=37ds												
Montreal	1.5875-1.5943	1.5875-1.5883	0.05-0.023pr	1.45=1.50	1.45=1.50												
New York	10.7750-10.8220	10.7880-10.8120	2=3=3ds	8=9=3ds	8=9=3ds												
Osaka	2.5570-2.5620	2.5570-2.5620	2=3=3ds	8=9=3ds	8=9=3ds												
Paris	11.6350-11.6480	11.6320-11.6480	2=3=3ds	0=1=7ds	0=1=7ds												
Stockholm	17.65-17.71	17.66-17.71	1=1=3pr	1=1=3pr	1=1=3pr												
Vienna	2.2903-2.3016	2.2903-2.3016	1=1=3pr	1=1=3pr	1=1=3pr												
Zurich	17.65-17.71	17.66-17.71	1=1=3pr	1=1=3pr	1=1=3pr												
Source: BofA																	
			Premium - pr. Discount - dk.														
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**BEST
MUSICAL
AWARDS**

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. Add this to the daily dividend figure. If it matches your own calculation, you will have your own share price index on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Renfrew	Mining	
2	PSI	Mining	
3	Cape	Industrial	
4	Widom	Mining	
5	GBR	Insurance	
6	Watson & Pail	Food	
7	ACT Group	Electrical	
8	Clifford Food	Food	
9	Watts Blake	Building, Eds	
10	Canal	Banking, Eds	
11	Eng China C	Industrial	
12	Johnstone Press	Newspaper, Pub	
13	Wagon Ind	Industrial	
14	Hazton	Industrial	
15	Wester Water	Water	
16	Liner	Textiles	
17	ERF	Motor, Air	
18	Cook (Wm)	Industrial	
19	Flintech	Pharmaceutical	
20	Thornhill	Electrical	
21	Bentley S Q	Food	
22	Durham Ind	Newspaper, Pub	
23	BT	Chemical, Eds	
24	Woolley	Industrial	
25	Thornhill H	Industrial	
26	MEPC	Electrical	
27	Seagor	Electrical	
28	Alford Fisher	Food	
29	Avon Rubber	Industrial	
30	ELIS	Industrial	
31	Thornhill	Food	
32	Thornhill	Electrical	
33	Dunhill	Drugs, Eds	
34	Orange Free	Mining	
35	Black	Electrical	
36	Muir-Sw	Electrical	
37	Brentner	Industrial	
38	Matthew Clark	Breweries	
39	Bentley Q	Building, Eds	

Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES
If you have ticked off your eight share price movements on this page, you can claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

The winner of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000 was Mrs J Woodman of Neath Hill, Milton Keynes.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	Net Yld
1	Barclays	100.00	4.50
2	HSBC	100.00	4.50
3	London & Lancashire	100.00	4.50
4	Midland	100.00	4.50
5	Northampton & Peterborough	100.00	4.50
6	Paragon	100.00	4.50
7	PSA	100.00	4.50
8	PSA	100.00	4.50
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BREWERIES

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BUILDING, ROADS

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BUSINESS SERVICES

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FINANCE, LAND

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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FOODS

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DRAPERY, STORES

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1	Adnams	100.00	4.50
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Losses halved

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 4. Dealings and January 15. Settlement day January 25. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992/93 High Low Company Price Net Yld P/E

No	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
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3	Adnams	100.00	4.50	15.0
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1992/93 High Low Company Price Net Yld P/E

No	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
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INFOTECH

Nick Nuttall on a technique that can give the authorities advance notice of blackspots

Braking is a clue to safety

One way of rapidly pinpointing potentially hazardous stretches of road before people are killed or injured has been discovered by British engineers.

They have discovered a link between drivers' braking patterns and potential accident blackspots which they believe could be harnessed in new route guidance computer systems planned for cars.

Previously safe stretches of road can suddenly become dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. Often these hazards only come to the attention of highway authorities after a large number of accidents have happened over a long period.

The new technique, which can use sensors fitted to automatic braking systems to measure the severity and frequency of braking, can swiftly alert transport officials to the fresh hazard before lives and limbs have been lost.

An investigation into what may be causing the potentially hazardous braking patterns can then be carried out and action taken. Some of the braking patterns may be due to quite obvious features, such as a badly designed junction. But the technique also identifies more subtle changes which have turned a once safe stretch into a potential blackspot.

For example, it may be that the staff of a newly opened and busy minicab company are so eager to be on their way that they cause other road users to brake alarmingly.

Peter Bonsall, the researcher at Leeds University behind the work, says: "It could be that a new pedestrian crossing has signs which are not very well sited or that a certain location is near to a pub out

of which customers often stagger."

The findings have been made after driving nearly 47,000 miles on stretches of Yorkshire roads.

Nearly 40 researchers, driving cars fitted with instruments that measure decelerations, travelled 3,000 times round a 15½-mile stretch of road.

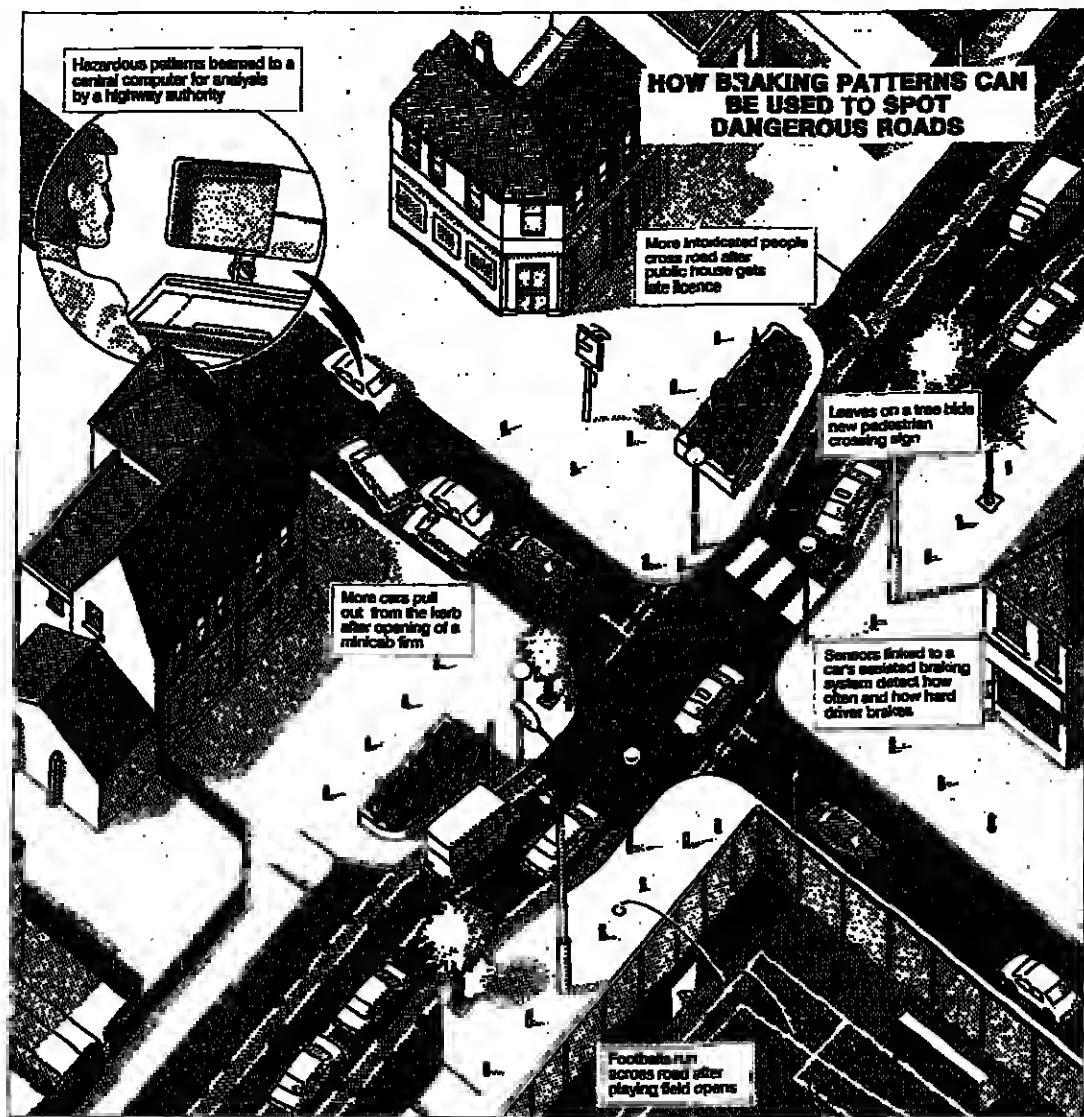
The researchers, who have been funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council's environmental civil engineering committee, found that the locations where drivers braked frequently

and hard, on average more than 4.4 miles per second per second, matched the accident figures for that spot.

"Some sites seemed to have more decelerations than we expected given the accident data. It turned out afterwards that some remedial work had been done after the accident statistics were last collected. This explained the difference and confirmed we were on to something," Mr Bonsall, who is based in the university's institute of transport studies, says.

Deploying scores of men and specially adapted cars to collect braking patterns for all roads would be costly and time consuming. However, the team's research was launched in anticipation of route guidance computer systems which are being planned for installation in vehicles.

Companies, including GEC, Ford and BT, are hoping to pilot such a system — called Traffic Information and Guidance on European Roads (Tiger) — in the London area in 1994. Up to 200 vehicles could take part in the



project, funded under the EC's Drive Programme.

Unlike Autoguide, the system originally planned for London and which needed the installation of special road-side beacons, Tiger will harness the cellular radio telephone network to relay traffic information between a central computer and motor cars.

Rival systems offer drivers the shortest travel route to a destination displaying it on an on-board electronic map. Tiger, on the other hand, will take into account traffic flows and congestion to plot the fastest route.

Robin Mannings, of BT's Martlesham Laboratories, says this will be done by linking the car's electronic map with London's traffic control and Scoot systems — the networks that monitor and adjust traffic lights to speed the flow of vehicles through the capital.

The Tiger system is expected to

cost about £10 million to develop. Under the scheme, drivers will be able to beam in information on local incidents as they happen, such as traffic signal failures, to enhance the system further.

Mr Mannings says that transmitting braking pattern information over the network could be easily done by adding some extra computer software to processors monitoring a vehicle's existing automatic braking system. The information could be used by highway authorities for pinpointing black spots but could also be beamed to drivers approaching an area to warn them of danger.

John Scholfield, of Ford's research and engineering centre in Dunton, near Basildon, agrees but believes question of cost and who will pay need to be answered. He is

also concerned that the bewildering amounts of information soon available to drivers may do more harm than good.

Systems under development could beam into cars not just traffic and guidance information but data on the condition of, for example, the state of the vehicle's engine and tyres. Meanwhile audio visual advertisements for hotels, the nearest hamburger take-away and local tourist information could also be beamed to drivers adding to sensory overload.

However, Mr Bonsall believes the arguments in favour of braking pattern data are strong. "The people in charge of these systems could sell the data to the highway authorities or the authorities could approve these systems only if they get this data... our research has established that this would be worth doing," he says.

Motoring, page 31

Stay on the line: we've got your number

BT is to begin trials on a service which will display a caller's telephone number

BT is to begin trials of a controversial caller identification service this month, just as the largest telephone company in California has decided to cancel plans for a similar service because of state regulations designed to protect people's privacy.

About 500 telephone users in Elgin, Granplan, are to become guinea pigs for BT's service, known as caller display, which provides an electronic peephole enabling customers to see the number of the person calling them.

Each will be given a display unit to attach to their telephone. This will show the telephone number of callers for those calls originating from certain local exchanges that cover a total of 23,000 people.

Well aware that some people may not be too happy about having their phone numbers displayed to anybody they call, particularly those people who are ex-directory, BT says those affected by the three-month trial will have the option to withhold the display of their number. But in doing so the advantages of having such a service are considerably reduced.

BT argues that caller identification restores "the balance of power between the person making a call and the one receiving it". A spokesman says: "Without it, the person receiving the call has only the choice of picking up or leaving the incoming call which could prove to be either unwelcome or unwanted."

In America, where the system is available in about half the states, it has considerably reduced the number of malicious and hoax calls. But privacy concerns have meant that most states are insisting that telephone companies also offer customers a facility to block their numbers from being displayed on caller identification units.

BT has said that its service will

include a free facility for customers to withhold their number by pressing extra digits before they dial each call, something known as "per call blocking".

In California, however, state authorities have gone a stage further by insisting that customers with unlisted phone numbers must automatically be offered "line blocking" which enables callers to permanently block the display of their phone numbers on all calls.

Because of this, Pacific Bell, a leading telephone company in California, last month said that it will not offer a proposed caller identification service because such restrictions make it too costly.

Pacific Bell had proposed to regulators that it offered the same free per call blocking option that BT is planning. GTE California, the state's other large phone operator, dropped plans for caller ID services last summer because of similar concerns.

Consumer and civil liberty groups in America argue that such restrictions are necessary, with critics pointing to battered women or undercover police officers as people who need to keep their phone numbers secret.

Businesses, too, are finding a use for caller identification. AT & T, for example, sells systems that can link numbers obtained from such services to company databases so that regular customers can be identified and relevant information automatically brought up on a screen before the phone is answered.

United States consumer groups are also concerned that the business use of caller identification is increasing the use and sale of personal data for marketing purposes, with incoming phone calls being matched to widely available mailing lists to obtain a caller's name and address.

MATTHEW MAY

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Is the game finally over for Sonic and Mario?

New home computers aim to out-perform Japanese video games

As doctors argue whether computer games are harmful to some children, the computer giant, Commodore, is pinning its hopes on the advanced Amiga home computer to out-perform the Japanese video game giants, Sega and Nintendo.

Parents worried about youngsters playing endless arcade-style games will be relieved to hear that the Commodore A1200 will at least allow their offspring the option of using more educational software rather than a diet of Sonic the Hedgehog or Mario. Both these games, like others produced by Sega and Nintendo, carry warnings but the British Epilepsy Association wants the labels to be more prominent.

It is no secret that high-fashion, high-performance video game consoles have pummeled the once bullish home computer market. Atari's range of ST computers has had its chips and a replacement, the Falcon, will be a slow-burn at best. And if you can find a child that owns an Acorn Archimedes, he or she certainly will not admit it.

The only big player left in the home computer game is Commodore. Unlike the Sega Mega Drive, the Super Nintendo and previous Amiga computers, which employ a 16-bit processor, the A1200 uses a 32-bit processor making it faster and more powerful. It also has a spectacular graphics chipset able to provide a vast section of colours.

"We brought 43,000 into the United Kingdom for the Christmas period, but we could have sold three or four times as many," says Andrew Ball, of Commodore.



Spectacular: fast and smooth animation from Zool

The only problem is a price of £400 — considerably more than the Nintendo or Sega games consoles, which cost about £150 — and almost the price of a basic personal computer.

"We could have sold four times as many"

However, the capabilities of the A1200 have meant that its professional counterpart, the £2,000 Amiga 4000, has been bought by broadcasters on both sides of the Atlantic. Both the BBC and Channel 4 have put it to studio use, while in America it is being used to help generate visual effects for such programmes as Quantum Leap.

Unfortunately not all existing Amiga software will run on the A1200. The official line is that about 60 per cent of the 3,000-plus Amiga titles in

circulation will run on the new machine. In practice, newer software titles are more likely to run successfully than old. The problems arise when authors side-step the legal operating system, cramming data into spaces best left vacant. Topping the "must-have" game charts for the A1200 is Zool, an enhanced £26 version of the best-selling Ninja from the Nth Dimension karate-kicking arcade romp of Gremlin Graphics. It is faster, more colourful and more smoothly animated than previous Zool outings.

The A1200 is just the tip of an Amiga iceberg comprising 1.4 million machines in Britain. "Games are obviously a major attraction for the

Amiga," Mr Ball says, "but buyers take comfort in the fact that they are getting an open environment. An Amiga is not a toy, it's a proper computer at the cutting edge of technology."

Commodore also sells a £350 CD ROM drive for the A500 Amiga and is planning a version for the A1200. Included with every drive sold will be a CD ROM disc containing 640 megabytes of public domain software.

The only remaining dark horse in the computer game field is the humble personal computer. Against the odds, the range and quality of personal computer-based games has improved dramatically in the past 18 months.

Even though IBM and compatible machines have enormous processing power and memory, sound generation and video manipulation skills are minimal. Only with assorted, and expensive, additional sound and graphics cards can they begin to deliver the kind of quality the modern gamer demands. This is why the dominant personal computer-based entertainment software is either adventure or simulation — usually flight — driven.

Salvation may well come in the guise of a bizarre new £1,000 hybrid from Amstrad. Called the Mega PC, it is a combination IBM-compatible PC with built-in Mega Drive games console.

At first glance the machine looks much like any other 386SX computer, with 40 megabyte hard drive and VGA graphics board. But slide a panel over the 3.5in floppy disc slot and you will reveal a standard Mega Drive cartridge port, two joystick connections and a stereo headphone socket.

Quite what sort of impact this unlikely offspring of the video games boom will have remains to be seen, but it is not impossible that this could be the product to bring the personal computer into every

"It is not a toy, but a proper computer"

STEVE MAY

هنا من الأخبار

386 BEST MUSICAL AWARDS

CA



DANCE page 27
Andrew George of
Adventures in Motion
Pictures: their new show
is "dreadfully comy"

ARTS

ROCK page 29
Brian Wilson: are the
Beach Boy's mental
problems directly related
to his creative gifts?



GALLERIES: Richard Cork on a show of pictures of London by students and staff of the Royal College of Art

City's artists put on a capital show

Despite grotesque overcrowding in narrow spaces, which demonstrates how desperately the Museum of London needs extra room for its burgeoning collections, the exhibition of Artists' London gradually exerts a fascination. Concentrating on the present century, and limited to students and staff of the Royal College of Art, the survey might have seemed indulgently meagre in scope. But the RCA is an exceptional breeding-ground, and London itself has never stopped generating powerful images of metropolitan life since Hogarth first defined the city's pulsating blend of vitality and squalor.

Not that the earliest pictures here

more than hint at their subject's mesmerising potential. The Royal College was the first two decades of the century, outdone by the extraordinary radicalism of its rival, the Slade. If the latter school had been included here, the dynamism of the machine-age capital would have dominated the first room. But without Lewis, Nevinson, Roberts and Ydsworth, the survey gets off to an oddly muted start. Sylvia Pankhurst's pastel self-portrait, probably drawn in Holloway Gaol around 1906, does not even contain a glimpse of London. Her surroundings are reduced to a dun-coloured shadow, within which the indomitable suffragette keeps her sad yet obstinate head erect beneath a white prison cap.

Most of the early exhibits date from the inter-war years, when William Rothenstein presided over the RCA. His diligent lithograph of Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, typifies the meticulous topographical style favoured by the show's eldest artists. Rothenstein focuses on scaffolding rather than the theatre behind, but he is not tempted to experiment with a ripped, geometrical way of defining the network of rectilinear poles. The welcome shift of emphasis from becalmed buildings to restless people was pioneered by Frederick Hixon, an RCA student in the mid-1920s. Judging by his exclamatory drawings of Regent Street and Juxney Hill, both dominated by scenes of pedestrian-filled animation, Hixon has been unfairly neglected. His most engaging work is a freshly observed view of bathurst Road in south-west London, where he lived as a student. Seen from above, the dilapidated street is alive with details as diverting as the miniature, rudimentary milk cart, and a woman perched precariously on a ladder stretching past her own balcony.

Grace Golden, a contemporary of Hixon at the college, is another find. Her etching of the City Dusk in 1927 depicts with confident economy the agile rubbish collectors deftly manhandling bins, while the horse pulling their vehicle stands by the pavement with steady

stolidism. A year later, Golden is even more assured in her crisply handled woodcut of a cinema interior. While the projectionist's almost visionary rush of light shows an image of an enigmatic actress onto the screen, a cloth-capped man sits captivated with a cigarette about to drop from his mouth. A female companion glances questioningly at him, as if jealous of his enraptured response. But the children behind clamber restlessly over their seats, and a Burra-like sailor saunters down the aisle looking for real-life excitement in the audience.

Burra himself is unaccountably missing, even though he spent two years studying at the RCA at the same time as Golden. But Rothenstein's most outstanding pupil,

Henry Moore, is memorably represented by one of his superb Tube-shelter drawings.

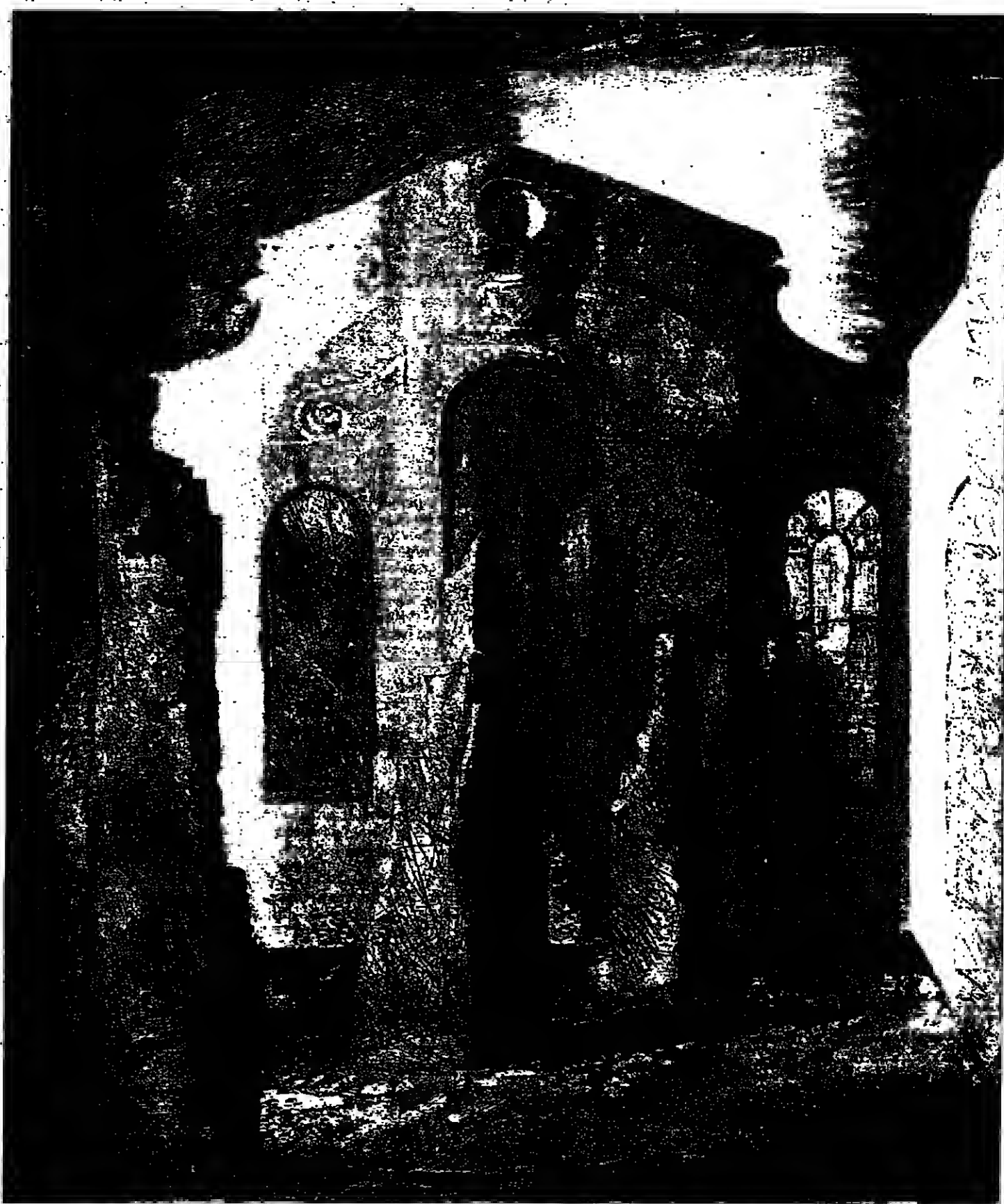
Some critics have claimed that these images, mostly executed at the height of the Blitz, are marred by sentimentality. I cannot agree. Moore

discovered a wholly new way of seeing London when he scrutinised the bomb-weary sleepers, massed on the Underground platforms like corpses in a catacomb. Their endurance is powerfully conveyed through his sculptural grasp of blanched limbs and heaped, sometimes swollen blankets. But the griminess of their subterranean surroundings is never underplayed, and their death-in-life stillness ominously predicts the extinction many of them will suffer in the months ahead.

Thanks to the official war artists' scheme masterminded by Kenneth Clark, the Blitz brought out the best in many of London's observers. John Piper's work, which can descend into superficiality and staginess, reached a tragic maturity with his elegiac studies of ruined buildings. His painting of Christ Church, Newgate Street, after its devastation in 1940, is a shattered and melancholy affair. The scorched stumps of the nave's pillars rise like prehistoric standing stones from the rubble, and they are jarringly juxtaposed with the remains of Baroque ornamentation over the windows behind. The entire image still smacks of theatrical scenery, but this time Piper designs the mood with a thoroughness for the lost architecture he had loved.

Not all the wartime images are charged with potent emotion. Robert Buhler's bombed-site painting is the quintessence of dullness, while Vivian Pitchforth strives too self-consciously to discover picturesque felicities in his *Fallen Left Shuts in the City*.

But even when the paintings are faulty in execution, the subject of war often proves compelling. Charles Cundall's handling of paint in his exhibit could hardly be more banal. The sight he recorded, though, was almost surreal in its strangeness: a gleaming Stirling Bomber displayed incongruously



Elegiac, shattered and melancholy: John Piper's oil study of Christ Church, Newgate Street, after its destruction in 1940

in a flattened stretch of City wasteland, where crowds cluster among the devastation to inspect this symbol of Britain's resilience.

After the prolonged trauma of battle, London emerged shakily from the ordeal. While still a student in 1953, John Bratby caught the mood of postwar queasiness by painting a large, turbulent panorama of Blackheath. Ragged enough to have been produced by an artist with a terminal hangover, the result has a rough-and-ready conviction sadly lacking in Bratby's later, extruding output. His Blackheath canvas compares

favourably with Cecil Richards's preposterous attempt, in the same year, to laud the metropolis as a resurgent jewel in the new Elizabethan age. Unhealthily reliant on Drury, Richards views the city from a vantage point high up on the former St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner. Conveying little apart from whimsical wish-fulfilment, this is a supremely unpersuasive *Vision of London*.

It looks absurdly overblown when set beside the far grimmer images of the city produced by Frank Auerbach and Leon Kossoff. Auerbach's compact, muscular

painting of Mornington Crescent reduces the buildings to a sequence of skeletal forms against a violent sky flaring with acid green and blinding puce. Kossoff's contributions are wilder still, especially when he maroons a dusty Willesden school building in a maelstrom of whirling charcoal lines.

After such an apocalyptic outpouring, the show was bound to lapse into bathos. Although Oliver Bevan strives for Auerbach's intensity, he cannot match it in his unconvincing Fauvist view of high-rise housing at the Elephant and Castle. But the exhibition comes to

a crisp and invigorating close with Mao Wen Biao's sprightly painting of *The Tube*. Finished only last year, when his student period at the RCA ended, this interior of a rush-hour carriage should be horribly oppressive, but Biao's innate eastern delicacy gives the claustrophobic setting an unforced *brío*. He is beginning a month-long artist-in-residence scheme at the Museum: his open-studio days should be well worth seeking out.

Artists' London, Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (071-600 0807) until Jan 31. Mao Wen Biao's studio is open every Thursday, 1-3.30pm

● **FRANCIS CARR:** An émigré from Central Europe who arrived in Britain in 1938, Francis Carr brought with him established continental ideas little regarded here at that time about the integration of new art with architecture and the total planned environment. A painter and sculptor himself, he was a trail-blazer in artistic screen-printing during the Forties, and exerted great influence as design consultant to the GLC housing division from 1965 to 1969. This retrospective includes his own art, as well as recording his most important large-scale public commissions in photograph and document.

The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, WC1 (071-637 1022) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Jan 29.

● **RUSKIN AND TUSCANY:** Ruskin's most famous Italian connection, both as critic and as artist, was with Venice. But his interest in Tuscany, especially in four major cities — Florence, Lucca, Pisa and Siena — was hardly less significant, and a large proportion of the works he gathered together for his Sheffield Museum were connected with it. This show, drawn from the Sheffield archives and other British collections, consists of some 270 items, including drawings by Ruskin himself, work commissioned by him, books, photographs and documents of all kinds illustrating Ruskin's view that the roots of much later European art and architecture lay in Tuscany.

Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474) Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun 2-5.30pm, until Feb 7. Admission £3, concessions £1.50.

● **MOSAICS FROM JORDAN:** Jordan is particularly well provided with mosaics of the late Roman to early Islamic periods, and while many are still *in situ*, a large number, owing to the circumstances of their discovery, have been removed to local museums. This show consists of 36 such, illustrating the variety, both religious and secular, which have been uncovered since the first was found in 1880. They were all originally designed for flooring, and are made of local stones rather than more precious materials. The subjects include townscapes and city plans, portraits and many delightful scenes with animals and plants. The Colonnade Gallery, Sotheby's, 1-2 St George Street, W1 (071-493 8080) Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm, Sun 12noon-4pm, until Jan 22.

● **THE INSTINCTIVE ART OF C.W. BROWN:** One of the most famous of Britain's genuine primitive painters, Charles William Brown (1882-1961) spent all his working life as a coal-miner down the pits, and all his spare time painting. At his death he left more than 1,500 works to Stoke City Museum and Art Gallery. City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173), Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until Feb 7.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Clive Davis pays tribute to Dizzy Gillespie, one of the founders of modern jazz, who died on Wednesday

Farewell to a genial jester

If Dizzy Gillespie had never existed, some artful publicist would surely have dreamt him up. Bebop, never the most listener-friendly form of music, surely needed a central figure who could draw the attention of a wary and sometimes downright scornful audience. "How deaf can you get?" was a typical mainstream press response to some of the early manifestations of what came to be known as modern jazz.

Gillespie fulfilled the combined role of ringmaster and jester to perfection, so much so that we were in danger of forgetting how acute a musician and teacher he actually was. Ask most people what his name means to them, and you will hear all about the ballooning cheeks, the curiously shaped trumpet, the goatee beard and the perpetual smile. By the end of his life he had evolved into one of those lovable grandfather figures, a genial character who was quite at home as a guest star on *The Cosby Show*.

If his music was less well known to the general public — who would

probably struggle to name one of his tunes besides "Night in Tunisia" — it is partly due to his less than satisfactory experiences with the record industry. His fellow-trumpeter Miles Davis left behind a dozen or more classic discs, virtually all of them readily available — if you had to select one representative masterpiece, you might well pick *Kind of Blue* or *Porgy and Bess*. With Gillespie the choice is much more difficult. Fragments are scattered on all manner of albums — some for major labels, many for small independents — which have filled in and out of print.

The early Sixties orchestral date with Lalo Schiffrin, *Gillespiana*, a particular favourite inspired by Davis's work with Gil Evans, is one of many albums that have slipped through the net. Anyone who wants to hear the very best of Gillespie now has to sift through compilations such as *The Bebop Revolution*

(Bluebird ND82177) or *Dizzy's Diamonds: The Best of the Verve Years* (Verve 513875).

Not the least of Gillespie's achievements was his ability simply to survive in a hostile environment. The pressures of making what was in a sense an underground music in the Forties took a ferocious toll of the practitioners, either through drugs or alcohol. Gillespie kept going, while his partner in crime Charlie Parker was dead by the age of 34 (reportedly with the body of a man twice his age, according to the doctors).

There was, too, his capacity for self-improvement. Musicians who worked with him during his apprenticeship years in big band recall that his sound was undernourished and erratic. Through hard work he created a high-velocity technique which compensated for any deficiencies in tone. His role in helping to mould bebop has often been

underestimated as well, as if to suggest that he was no more than Parker's more photogenic sidekick.

"Bird was responsible for the actual playing of it, more than anyone else," the singer and bandleader Billy Eckstine later explained in an interview with the journalist Max Jones. "But for putting it down, Dizzy was responsible. And that's a point a whole lot of people miss."

Gillespie's place in history is assured, thanks to all those extraordinary sessions in the dead of night in the clubs on New York's 52nd Street. The outraged response from guardians of the nation's morals soon died away, and bebop became the standard language for a generation of improvisers.

Yet there is still a minority view that bebop actually came close to killing jazz altogether, reducing it

from a popular form of entertainment to an obscure coterie pastime. According to this school of thought, the modernists robbed the art of its flair, substituting technical flourishes for emotion, and reducing the range and instrumentation of performances. Seen in this light Gillespie and Parker may have been undertakers rather than pioneers, even though most of the blame rests with the hordes of lesser musicians who copied them so slavishly.

The news of Gillespie's passing raises one other question: how many of the great crowd-pullers are there left? The same thought occurred with the death of Stan Getz. Sonny Rollins is still active, of course, and so are Oscar Peterson and Lionel Hampton, though whether they play with as much vigour or inventiveness must be open to question.

Who is going to replace all of these names? It is a question that some of us would prefer not to think about. At least we have the records. But is that enough?

Obituary, page 17



Lovable grandfather figure: Dizzy Gillespie in the early Eighties

3 BEST MUSICAL AWARDS

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a group of people sitting in a row, possibly in a classroom or lecture hall. They are all looking down at books or papers they are holding, suggesting a lecture or study session. The image is grainy and has a stark, almost graphic quality.

performed to Percy Grainger's arrangement for piano solo of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. This produces a wild take-off in emotions revealed in heavy anti-diluting.

David Manners's decor of a screen painted with three voracious figures is clever, and his costumes are more acceptable here than in *The Infernal Galop*. But the chief interest and effect all evening lies in the choice of music: deliciously obvious French songs or the second half, and a selection of hilariously inapposite pieces (many of them by Marmón) for the first half, but a show so reliant on music, the quality of the amplification, deplorable in any circumstances, is doubly unforeseeable.

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Fanning the flames of genius

David Sinclair looks at the twin lunacies facing rock stars: pathologically devoted fans and self-destruction through drugs

The spectre of insanity is often glimpsed by those who seek to explore and exploit the limits of their creative potential. The image of the mad painter, actor, author or inventor has become a stereotype, and the theme of madness is one which recurs in the literature and arts of most cultures. But can there be another area of creative endeavour that offers such ideal conditions in which to sever the links with reality as does the looking glass world of the modern rock 'n' roll star?

In its less extreme manifestation, it encourages eccentricities of the sort of "Wacko" Michael Jackson, with his chimp and his oxygen tent. Rock and other creative arts have long provided an outlet for talented individuals with quirky egos, an environment in which bizarre behaviour is not so much tolerated as expected.

But the price to be paid can be high. Brian Wilson, leader and "creative genius" of the Beach Boys, recalls the prelude to the opening night of his group's 1962 residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

"Depressed, disgusted, and humiliated, I retreated to the safety of my [hotel] room, where Carolyn and I spent the evening ordering prodigious amounts of food as well as fourteen bottles of champagne. How much we drank and how much was spilled on the carpet or poured in the sink is impossible to say. But I didn't roll out of bed until the road manager called me several minutes before show time the following night. As I travelled downstairs in the elevator, I wasn't very different from a coma victim."

A vulnerable and insecure youth who had been beaten and abused in childhood by his father, Wilson was gifted with a musical talent that had earned him his first \$1 million before he was old enough to vote.

This success pitched him into a world where indulgences of any description are catered for and the recreational use of "mind-expanding" drugs such as marijuana and LSD was considered beneficial. He rapidly lost his bearings.

As a songwriter, producer and performer, Wilson exhibited tremendous sensitivity and grace. But when the his dried up and inspiration failed him, the man who wrote

"Good Vibrations", "I Get Around", "God Only Knows" and so many others, responded by retreating to his bed for two and a half years. Never cleaning his room or even washing himself, he consumed "unthinkable quantities" of junk food, booze, cigarettes, coffee and cocaine, until he eventually turned into a 24-stone vegetable.

The squalid yet gripping tale of his slide into insanity is told in Wilson's autobiography *Wouldn't It Be Nice - My Own Story*, published in paperback later this month. The book caused controversy when it was first published in America, on account of the intimate and continuing involvement of Wilson's therapist Dr Eugene Landy in all aspects of his client's life, from managing Wilson's business affairs to claiming co-songwriting credits on Wilson's most recent albums.

Many observers have detected the voice of Landy speaking through the pages of the book at least as loudly as that of Wilson himself. Other members of the Beach Boys are currently engaged in legal action in a bid to force Landy to loosen his grip on Wilson's life.

The miracle is that Wilson, now 50, is still around and capable of telling the tale. Others of his generation pushed themselves beyond the limits of physical endurance before their mental state became an issue.

Brian Jones, founder multi-instrumentalist with the Rolling Stones, a heavy user of various drugs, had a history of depressive mental illness and was described by one psychiatrist as "an extremely frightened young man" more than a year before he drowned in a swimming pool accident in 1969. The Doors singer Jim Morrison's behaviour was increasingly unpredictable and bizarre in the year preceding his death in 1971, from a heart attack while in the bath.

Many of rock's pioneers, although physical survivors, have returned from the trip with their psyches in tatters: Peter Green, the original leader of Fleetwood Mac, and Syd Barrett, the founder singer, songwriter and guitarist in Pink Floyd, are among the most notable casualties. Both of them are gifted performers with fault lines in their personalities that became



John Lennon signs an autograph for his killer Mark David Chapman (right). Photograph by Paul Goresch/New York News/UP1

aggravated by drug abuse and ineluctably widened by exposure to the elixir of celebrity.

One of those who emerged unscathed from the eye of the hurricane is Mick Jagger. Musing on the motives for wanting to be a star, he once remarked that "Money is pretty level-headed compared to all the other things you want. If you want money at least there are things you can do with it. But it's adulation... that's what most people are after."

A chilling description of what happens when that adulation turns to hatred is described in meticulous detail by Jack Jones in his new book *Let Me Take You Down - Inside The Mind Of Mark David Chapman, The Man Who Shot John Lennon*. With commendable regard for the facts, Jones's dispassionate account attempts to analyse and explain exactly why, on De-

cember 8, 1980, the 25-year-old Mark Chapman took it into his head to pump five bullets into the back of a rock star he had once idolised.

Called from more than 200 hours of interviews conducted with Chapman in his prison cell in Attica, New York, the book is a biography-cum-psychological profile of Lennon's killer which attempts to unravel the thinking behind this senseless act of barbarism.

A depressingly familiar pattern emerges. A highly sensitive individual, Chapman was subjected to bad parenting (he loathed his father who beat up his mother) before engaging in a naive but intensive period of drug abuse.

Although capable of immense charm - the woman he married, and who still awaits his return, describes him as "witty, generous, kind, gentle, studious, intelligent and cute" - Chapman nursed a

weak, cowardly and obsessional nature which eventually got the better of him.

"There's a big part of me that's mostly good," he explains in the reasoned tone that makes his story all the more unsettling. "But there also is a very small part of me that is very powerful and very evil."

So why did he do it? In so far as it is possible to isolate one clear motive, the simple, awful truth of the matter is that Chapman wanted to be famous. "I was an acute nobody," he explains. "I had to usurp someone else's importance, someone else's success. I was 'Mr Nobody' until I killed the biggest Somebody on earth."

Chapman now receives mail from all around the world, much of it threatening in tone, but a significant portion of it adulatory. He is frequently asked for his autograph, often to be auctioned off in order to raise money for various respected charities. One such re-

quest came from the Red Cross. There has been little agreement among the many psychiatrists who have studied his case as to whether Chapman was clinically insane or not when he shot John Lennon. But in the sense that he has achieved his desired result - to become a Somebody - his action could be described as rational. Indeed, Jones's book has contributed to Chapman's notoriety.

Perhaps it is the world, so enthralled by the icons of pop culture and so readily serviced by a media with a voracious appetite for new and more extreme sensations, that has really gone mad.

● *Let Me Take You Down - Inside The Mind Of Mark David Chapman, The Man Who Shot John Lennon* by Jack Jones is published on Tuesday by Virgin (£14.99).

● *Wouldn't It Be Nice - My Own Story* by Brian Wilson with Todd Gold is published in paperback on January 28 by Bloomsbury (£9.99).

CONCERT: A cycle of Schubert sonatas successfully launched by a pianist of remarkable insight



Andras Schiff: no truck with playing completions of unfinished movements, or fragments that end poignantly in mid-air

Andras Schiff will no doubt be filling the Wigmore Hall on each of the six evenings of his cycle of Schubert piano sonatas this month. He began his odyssey on Wednesday, stating in the programme his policy: unlike others, he would be holding no truck with playing completions of unfinished movements, or fragments that end poignantly in mid-air.

The territory of the piano sonata would seem a far more natural area for a revolutionary like Beethoven to inhabit, a form well able to accommodate his explosive expressivity. Schubert, however, was no less a revolutionary. He draws all the richness of his song-writing into his sonatas, allowing his ideas to explore their own ramifications by giving them as much space as they require. Nobody understands Schubert's expansiveness, not

Beguiled at the start of epic exploration

Andras Schiff
Wigmore Hall

shows ability to control phrase and rhythm, balance and colour, better than Schiff.

For a man still not 40 he demonstrates remarkable insight and authority, though as he himself says this music has an open innocence well suited to the young mind. Throughout this first concert there was but one ugly sound, when in the E minor Sonata, D566 - of which, for the sake of tonal unity, Schiff gave only the first two of the extant three movements (the third is an A flat major Scherzo) - he once inadvertently thumped the

loud pedal. Normally one would barely notice such a thing, but Schiff makes the ears hyper-sensitive, rightly beguiling the listener inwardly rather than indulging in rhetorical gesture.

Once beguiled (not difficult) we have our work to do to follow the chromatic excursions of the adventurous Allegretto second movement of this sonata, written in 1817, for instance, or tracing the leisurely unfolding of the Andante of the C major Sonata, D840, composed in 1825 but put aside with its third and fourth move-

ments uncompleted. Even this piece's contrasting episodes Schiff managed to keep in context: not violent eruptions but interesting undulations on an otherwise smoothly contoured, if far from flat, landscape.

But the evening's major work was the great A minor Sonata, D845, which dates from the same year. Here, in music that ranges as wide as anything in the repertoire, Schiff needed to draw on every facet of his considerable art. He relished alike every turn of the imposing opening movement, the rich variations of the C major slow movement, and the fleet virtuosity, still of a spiritual rather than an exhibitionistic kind, demanded by the Rondo finale. It was a remarkable stage of what promises to be a very remarkable and epic journey.

STEPHEN PETTITT

DANIEL JOHNSON

PARIS NOTEBOOK

Fresh perspectives on French painting

The crowds are once again hurrying through I.M. Pei's controversial pyramid in the Louvre courtyard. They are going in to see the vast new display of French paintings that opened in the Musée du Louvre just before Christmas. Thirty-nine new rooms are hung with the French paintings from the 17th to the 19th century, starting with the forgotten allegorical painter Pierre Mignard and ending with Corot. (The Musée d'Orsay takes over the story of French art from that point.)

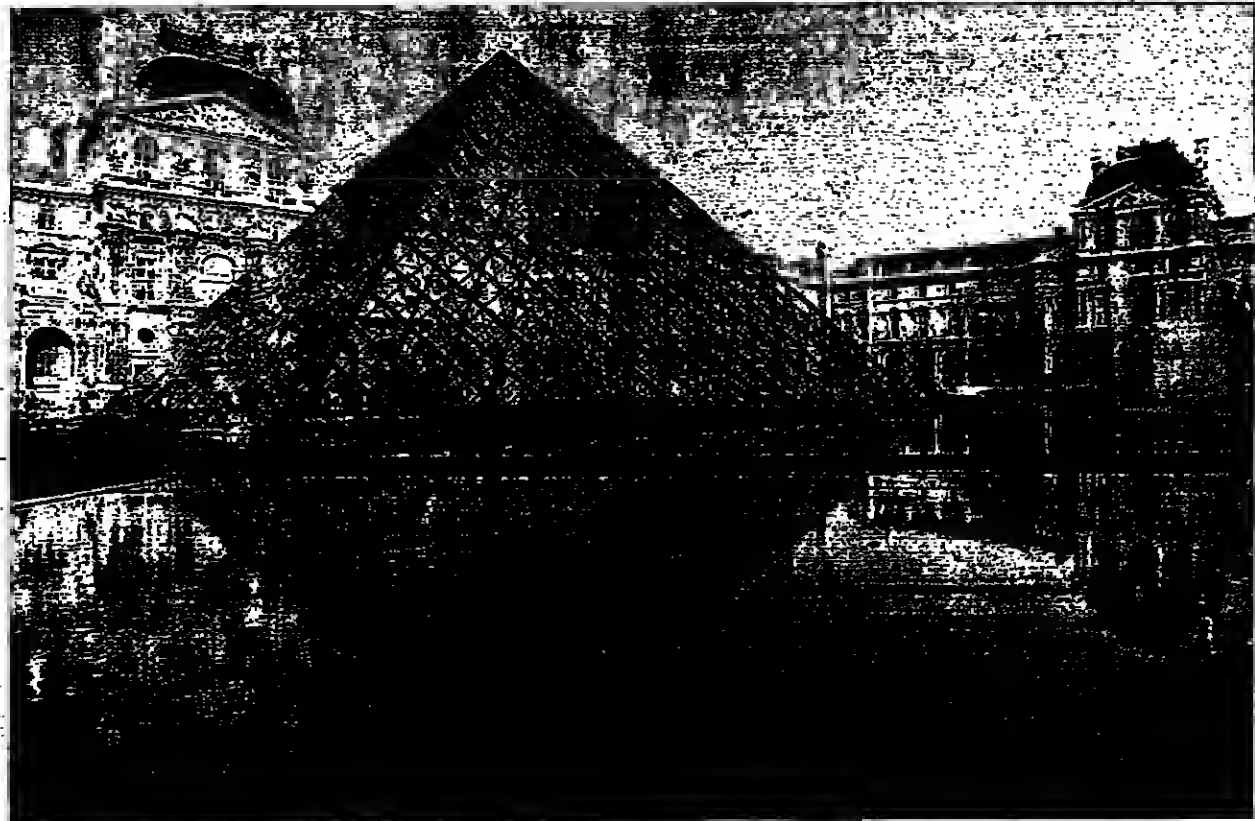
The new rooms are less pompous and marble-clad than those opened three years ago as part of the new Grand Louvre. They have been designed by the architect Ippolito Rota, and depend much more on natural light from outside, with "light traps" in the ceiling that diffuse the light evenly over the rooms. There are also splendid vantage-points for looking out over the courtyard and up the "historic perspective" to the Arc de Triomphe.

art critic, Diderot, which gives an impression of what a well-informed collector's study would have looked like 200 years ago.

One great wall is covered with the "landscapes with ruins" of the painter Proust liked so much, Hubert Robert. There are a hundred sparkling Corots in the last gallery.

And still the Grand Louvre is not complete. The Richelieu wing opens in November, and the whole will not be finished until 1997 or 1998.

THE PLAY that Parisians are hurrying to is *La Serva amorosa* by the 18th-century Italian dramatist, Goldoni. It is the first big success of the Comédie Française for some time. The posters present it under its Italian title, with a translation beneath it, *La Servante aimante*. Some of the critics have rightly complained that this is a misleading translation: the heroine of the play, Coraline, is indeed a "loving" woman, but not in an amorous sense. She is a servant's daughter who has been brought up as the playmate of the master's son, Florindo. When they are both 20, Florindo is driven out of the



The Louvre, with I.M. Pei's controversial pyramid: refurbishment of the galleries will be finished in 1997 or 1998

house by an unkind stepmother. Coraline manages to restore the family amity, and fix up Florindo's marriage to another young woman into the bargain.

It might all sound too good to be true: but the critics are agreed that in this production by Jacques Lassalle the story unfolds with quite exceptional

naturalness. Coraline, played by Catherine Hiegel, wins everyone's hearts with her energy and simplicity. "One of the great dates of the history of the Comédie Française," *Le Monde* sums up.

RATHER more criticism for *Montaigne* at the little Théâtre de Poche Montparnasse.

This new play presents Montaigne as running between his wife and a clever, charming woman called Marie de Jars de Gournay. In fact, Montaigne was a wholly faithful husband - quite remarkably so for the late 16th century - and his wife and Mlle de Gournay worked together on a new edition of his *Essais* after

his death. On top of that, the actor Edouard Berry looks more like a ruddy-faced farmer than the long-skulled Montaigne of the contemporary portrait. However, Parisian theatregoers seem happy enough to forget truth for a good right out.

DERWENT MAY

THE TIMES GALA CONCERT OFFER

A night with Carreras

The Australia Day Gala Concert at the Royal Opera House in the presence of the Prince of Wales



On Sunday, January 31, José Carreras sings at the Australia Day Gala Concert at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden - and you could be there to see him perform. It will be an evening to remember. Carreras will sing Tosti's song "L'ultima canzone", "Lippen schweigen" (in duet with Yvonne Kenny) from Lehár's *Merry Widow*, "Una furiva lagrima" from L'Elisir d'amore, and - with Kenny, Joan Carden, Suzanne Johnston and Jonathan Summers - "Brindisi" from Act 1 of *La Traviata*.

The varied programme includes Sir Charles Mackerras conducting the Australian Gala Concert Orchestra, Leslie Howard (piano), Penelope Thwaites (trumpet) and John Williams (guitar). It will be a practical

evening, too: the concert, which is sponsored by Foster's, is in aid of the Australian Musical Foundation in London (of which the Prince of Wales is patron in chief) and the José Carreras International Leukaemia Foundation.

● If you would like seats at the gala evening, either call in person at the Royal Opera House Box Office, 48 Floral Street, London WC2E 7QA (10am-8pm), or telephone 071-240 1911/1066, quoting "Australia Day Gala Times Offer". Tickets for the orchestra stalls cost £75 each and, exclusively for Times readers, the price includes pre-concert drinks and canapés, and a gala souvenir programme priced at £10.

MOTURING

Vaughan Freeman examines the most important Ford for 40 years and speaks to the Briton who led its design team

Is this the car to conquer the world?

How do you get the entire population of the world into one car? Use an international design team and take six years to spend £3 billion on the development of a saloon may be the answer if Ford has managed to get its new Mondeo right.

This week, Ford unveiled the first details of its family saloon, to be launched on the United Kingdom market in March as a replacement for the Sierra.

Ian McAllister, Ford UK's chairman, says the car is one of the most advanced the company has ever produced. "The Mondeo is important to us all, and we are feeling very good about it."

"It is an all-new car which we believe will set new standards, and will show that we can not only take on the Japanese, but beat them on quality. It is probably the best thing we have ever done."

The car has been six years in development and the investment costs have run to an estimated £3 billion. The success of the car is of vital importance to Ford's future. Unless Mr McAllister's confidence is well placed, the Mondeo could prove a nail in Ford's coffin rather than the vehicle the firm needs to drive it out of the recession.

It is Ford's first "world" car produced by one design team drawn from America and Europe. The intention is that the vehicle, to be manufactured in Ford factories in Belgium and Mexico, will go on sale around the world largely unchanged.

The attention paid to detail on the vehicle is mirrored by the time and effort Ford spent simply choosing the name. A four-month programme of research came up with a dozen possible options which were finally boiled down to "Mondeo" because of its associations in many languages with the concept of universality, people and the globe.

The car shares the rounded look of many of its modern rivals, such as the Honda Accord, Nissan Primera, and Vauxhall Cavalier, yet is sufficiently different from all of them. This relatively cautious design was chosen to avoid a repeat of the problems surrounding the launch of the then revolutionary-looking Sierra. When launched in 1982, the Sierra's "jelly-mould" features proved too radical for many customers, who failed to buy the car until time and familiarity had softened its impact.

Mondeo is two inches shorter than the Sierra, but there is actually more space inside because it has a longer wheelbase. Helping the improvement in the amount of interior room is the switch-over from the Sierra's rear-wheel drive and longitudinally placed engine, to the Mondeo's front-wheel drive and transverse-mounted engine.

The car's standard features are impressive. The driver's seat height is adjustable, and the steering column moves up and down as well as in and out for virtually endless possibilities of driving position. There seems to be less room in the back, however, which would be awkward for rear seat passengers who are unusually tall.

The car will come in four-door



Steering towards global domination: this version of the Ford Mondeo is the Si, a family saloon to replace the Sierra which comes on to the UK market from March

saloon, five-door hatchback and estate versions. This time, unlike the belated launch of the Granada Estate, Ford plans to have all the options available from the outset.

The hatchback version, particularly, looks good, with a huge rear window reminiscent of the large Saab, and a cavernous boot with ample space for holidaying families and the sales representatives Ford hopes will flock to buy the car.

All petrol models will have Ford's latest and most sophisticated multi-

valve engines, the 16-valve four cylinder Zeta unit in 1.6, 1.8, and 2-litre versions. A V6 2.5-litre for top-of-the-range models will become available next year.

There will also be a 1.8-litre diesel, and it is the 1.8-litre versions in both petrol and diesel that Ford anticipates will be the biggest seller, especially in the company car market, where the Sierra was so successful.

Prices have yet to be announced, but Ford has said that the Mondeo will be aggressively priced against

the stern competition in the saloon sector.

Performance ranges from a top speed of 111 mph, and a 0-60 mph time of 13 seconds for the 1.6-litre, through to an acclaimed 129 mph top speed and 0-60 mph in nine seconds for the 2-litre. Transmission is through a five-speed manual gearbox, or an all-new electronically controlled four-speed automatic.

Mondeo is the first car in its class in the UK to offer a driver's side airbag as standard, with a passenger side airbag as an option.

Ford carried out 150 crash tests during the car's development, each one costing £177,000, and as a result says that Mondeo exceeds all existing — and planned — crash test standards.

Optional extras include traction control to prevent wheel spin in slippery conditions, anti-lock brakes, and adaptive shock absorbers to suit different conditions.

Power steering is standard across the range, as are seat belts with pre-tensioners which grab the occupants in the event of an accident.

Seats are designed to prevent occupants "submerging" under seat belts in an accident, and doors feature side impact beams to add strength.

Should the Belgian-built Mondeo attract the unwanted attention of car thieves or vandals, security features available include anti-theft alarms and an engine immobiliser.

Other thoughtful touches in the car's interior include a torch fitted in the glove compartment which is kept constantly charged, a pen-

holder next to the gear stick, which takes anything from a Bic to a Mont Blanc, and a lid on the storage box between driver and passenger which folds out to become a cup holder.

It all goes to make a car which Ford cannot afford to see fail. The company is confident about the car's success, a confidence matched only by that of the designers whose faith in the vehicle's longevity is such that the odometer which registers the car's mileage reads all the way up to 999,999 miles.

No room for error: the man with the £3bn budget

The man behind Ford's most important new car for 40 years and the company's first true attempt at building a "world" car is a Briton, John Oldfield.

From the hundreds of thousands of staff employed by Ford, the company's Detroit chiefs selected Mr Oldfield to head its £3 billion Mondeo development programme. In March, the Mondeo replaces the decade-old Sierra which has been consistently among Britain's top ten sellers, and has sold a total of 1.3 million since its launch. Ford hopes the Mondeo will sell 600,000 a year worldwide.

In developing a successor to the Sierra, Mr Oldfield had to revolutionise the way Ford develops new models. The Mondeo is to go on sale largely unchanged in Britain, across the rest of Europe, in America, Canada and the Far East. Designing, building and selling a single range of cars worldwide is a feat unmatched by any of Ford's rivals and, if it works, will set the pattern for future car development, thanks to the big savings it provides.

Mr Oldfield, who joined Ford in 1958 at the age of 21, is now product development

vice-president for Ford of Europe. The Mondeo has been his life for the past six years since he was chosen to head the project because he had been involved in developing the Escort. "This is probably one of the most important programmes we have ever done, and the scale of the programme is huge. Its importance cannot be over-estimated," he says.

The main engineering and design team

'The importance of the Mondeo project cannot be over-estimated'

was based in Britain and Germany, and, at its peak, Mr Oldfield headed a team of 800 designers. Design teams from the UK, Italy, California and Detroit were asked for ideas for the new car. Then all the teams flew to Cologne, Germany, to confer. Mr Oldfield says: "The Mondeo is very much an international effort."

An important worry was that with such a multi-national design, the car would end

up looking completely bland. Mr Oldfield says: "We don't think that has happened. Designers are creative people, and we don't believe they have created a bland middle-of-the-road consensus. The car has what we call 'stretch'. If a design doesn't have stretch, it might have a lot of appeal when you launch it, but it will age very quickly. A design with stretch might make you feel a little uncomfortable at first, but you will grow to love it."

The key to the project was the fact that car tastes in Europe and America are converging. The American preference for huge gas-guzzlers has faded, and the demand there now is for smaller cars with European style looks, ride and handling. Ford also realised that safety tests worldwide, as well as environmental requirements, meant vehicles were all having to meet the requirements of increasingly similar legislation.

Sometimes though, the nightmare of failure did loom. Mr Oldfield says: "I have got to admit that there were times when I wondered if we would ever pull it off. With something like this, you develop a sort of regressive amnesia, so that it never looks



Oldfield: led international team

quite as bad when you look back on it. The biggest problems were in getting agreement on a common product between north America and Europe."

One example came as American and

European designers argued over how best to stamp out metal parts for the car. In America, the sides of a car are traditionally built in two halves, while in Europe, the side is stamped from one big sheet of metal. Mr Oldfield says: "We had technical reviews, and the pros and cons looked at, and we settled on a one-piece body side, since it gives major quality benefits in the finished product."

Jobs were apportioned according to expertise, so that American teams worked out the air conditioning and the automatic transmission, while the Europeans worked on the manual gearboxes.

About the only area where Oldfield did not have the final say was on the car's name. Harold Poling, the chairman of Ford of America, called two of his closest deputies into his Detroit office, shut the door, and from the short list, decided on Mondeo.

With the car about to be launched, Mr Oldfield has already put the Mondeo behind him, and is working on what Ford will build to replace the Fiesta car and the Transit van. Would he do it all again? "Yes," he says. "I would."

At last, a low-cost vehicle that can scoot and slalom through the heaviest traffic

The buzz that helps to beat the jams

The motorised equivalent of a child's old-fashioned toy scooter is being touted as a cheap and fun solution to city congestion. The Buzzboard is a sort of powered skateboard, which weighs 14lb and when you have beaten the traffic jams, can fold away into a canvas bag.

Unlike the CitiBike and Zike bike, battery-powered vehicles which were launched last year, the Buzzboard is powered by a two-stroke, 30 or 40cc petrol engine, the sort you would find on a chain saw. It will do 50 mpg at a top speed of 24 mph.

The unlikely-looking machine is initially being aimed at sailing enthusiasts as a way of whizzing round ports and marinas. The company behind the machine, Buzz Toys of London, claims an interest from a variety of sources, including the staff at Dublin airport.

The company is seeking road approval from the transport department, and hopes to have an answer by the end of the month. The company says that the vehicle has been built to British Standards safety regulations and meets MoT rules for road-going vehicles with a maximum speed of 25 mph. Approval for road use is expected to require front and back lights.

For road use the machine, which it is claimed can take an 18st man

standing, is expected to cost about £249 plus road tax of £15. The off-road version will sell for £199.99.

The machine is the brainchild of Doug Miller, 36, a automotive design engineer based in Plymouth who was formerly with the army's Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

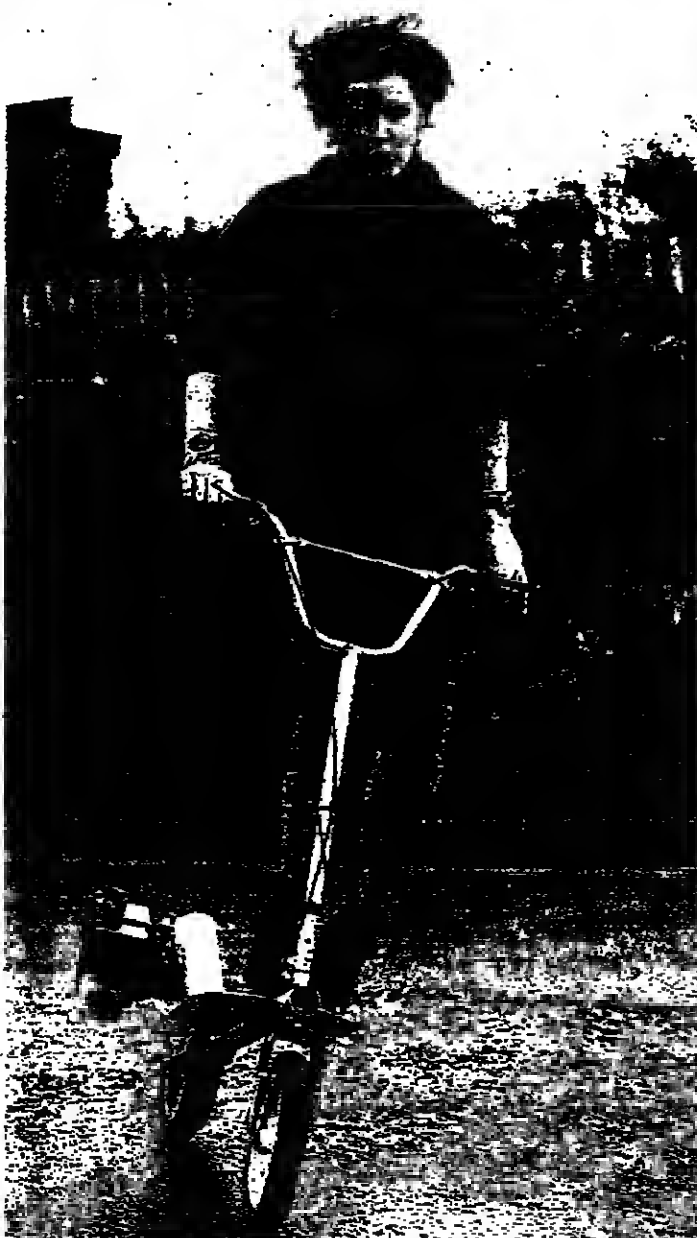
He has teamed up with Johnny Hesketh, the businessman brother of Lord Hesketh, the former Formula One racing team manager.

The Buzzboard is steered from the handlebar column, which is attached to the front wheel, while the engine is attached to the rear wheel. The accelerator and clutch controls are incorporated into the handlebars, while a hand-operated brake lever acts directly on the rear wheel. Optional extras include a detachable seat, carrying basket and an engine silencer.

Rival machines are available in America and Britain, but Mr Miller said these cost nearly £1,000 and had solid, as opposed to pneumatic tyres, making them unsuitable for road use.

Matt Diens, a salesman with the firm, says that the machine rides over holes in the road without throwing the user, can be jumped over kerbs and is suitable for wheelies. "It feels a bit like skiing. You can weave in and out of traffic like in a slalom," he said.

NICK NUTTALL



Easy rider: the Buzzboard being put through its paces

Cream tea, anyone?

□ A traditional cream tea, with fiddly sandwiches, scones, jam and silver service, greeted visitors to the British stand at the Detroit Motor Show this week as the British Automobile Manufacturers Association created an island of little England. The vehicles on display at the industry's first important event of the year include models from Rolls-Royce Bentley, Jaguar and Lotus.

Record month

□ Land Rover reports big successes in America. In December, the company sold 709 vehicles, against a previous monthly record of just over 500. In total last year, Land Rover sold 4,234 vehicles in America, up 28 per cent on 1991. Sales are expected to receive a further flip next year when the Land Rover Discovery, which has proved so popular in Europe, goes on sale in the States for the first time.

Extra inches

□ The prime minister's legs were the catalyst for a new car from Jaguar. The Coventry luxury car manufacturer was dismayed to hear that while Mr Major was comfortable in the back of a Rover 800, he felt cramped in the rear of a Jaguar saloon. Within two weeks, Jaguar had cut one of its £40,000 cars in half and stretched it two inches to ensure the prime minister's comfort. Jaguar has already received sev-

ROADWISE IN AMERICA

SHOWROOM



eral orders for cars to be stretched by a further five inches.

Petrol price war

□ A decision to increase the price of petrol by 50 per cent would do little for the Chancellor's popularity. Yet a demand for just such a rise is growing in America. A petrol price war has pushed pump prices down to as low as 89 cents (about 60p) per gallon. Now, however, Bill Clinton, the president-elect, is being urged to add 50 cents per gallon in tax to try to ease the country's financial problems. Environmentalists support the idea and manufacturers are all but resigned to an increase. The American motorist is less than happy.

Batteries battered

□ Motorists are their own worst enemies when it comes to breakdowns. The RAC warns drivers that flat batteries are the single biggest cause of breakdown and says that the problem is usually

caused by owners leaving on their lights. Flat batteries account for 12 per cent of RAC call-outs, with a third of a million motorists needing jump starts for their cars each year. Seven out of the ten most frequent call outs for breakdown, the RAC says, are for electrical faults such as problems with points, condenser and wiring.

End of the Nova

□ Vauxhall replaces its popular Nova small car this spring and has decided that the name will also die. Vauxhall sales and marketing executive director Peter Batchelor says: "With such a radically different style and class-leading safety and security features, the new car simply had to have a strong new name." It is to be called the Corsa.

Health check

□ Fiat is offering customers a free health check for their cars during the winter months. Anyone who test-drives a Fiat becomes eligible for a free mechanical, safety and exhaust emission check on their present car and will be offered a £20 discount voucher against any subsequent remedial work needed and a free set of wiper blades.

Dual purpose

□ Nissan this week launched its Serena estate car-cum-van. The multi-purpose vehicle, the size of a saloon car, is aimed at filling the gap between cars such as the Volvo estate and Renault Espace. The Spanish-built Serena comes with 1.6-litre or 2-litre petrol engines as well as a 2-litre diesel engine. There are four five-door options with six, seven- and eight-seat alternatives.

V.F.

Rushin
for late

Dominant rose could prove thorn in Lions' side



Carling: probable captain

You cannot walk on eggs without breaking a few shells. Selection of a team from within a squad, and the management of the final choice, is just as delicate as eggs are brittle, personalities stirred and shaken, ambitions broken. And even within the selected band of happy brothers, a balance needs to be struck between a variety of temperaments.

There must be give and take. Sorting out tactics is child's play compared to keeping a bunch of potential moaning minnies in good humour. If within the brainiest of brawny tight forwards, there is a little prima donna demanding he

GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

be recognised for his sublimity, the prima donna on the wing only wishes he could be noticed at all, and be part of the action. Both want to be mollycoddled.

If this is the case within a club or national team, imagine how much more fragile is the constitution of a British Isles touring party. This is the high-wire act. Make the first step a false one, and balance cannot easily be restored.

There are not only personal sensitivities to take into account, but also national feelings from four different cultures and sets of values. When the mood is right, the idea of the Lions proves an inspiration more fulfilling than any tour made by an individual country. Its cosmopolitan nature and the way the players continue to cherish the Lions experience makes it something else. Even when parochial concerns emerge, and this is always a danger, it is rarely a bland brew. But when the blend is right, it becomes an intoxicating and unforgettable cocktail.

The five nations' championship, which begins tomorrow week, assumes an additional significance because of the impending selection of the Lions party. Much will depend on the season's form. But at this juncture, it is difficult not to assume that the bulk of the party will be made up of English players. The entire team has a fair claim to make, and with others such as Stuart Barnes and Dean

Richards still strongly in the frame, more than half of the group to visit New Zealand could emerge from the England squad.

On the form of the past two seasons, they are simply the best. Not only is this a brilliant team but, crucially, each player is in a commanding position compared to his opposite numbers in the other countries. Each stands close scrutiny in his own right. The team is the sum of its accomplished parts.

Furthermore, the manager, Geoff Cooke, is also an Englishman, as is Dick Best, the assistant coach (a post introduced for the Lions tour to Australia in 1989, when Rog-

Gatting opens in England cricket team's second match

Taylor can grasp chance to enter Test reckoning

FROM PETER BALL IN LUCKNOW

PAUL Taylor makes his debut for an England team here today knowing that he has this one match in which to make an impact. The game, against the Indian Board President's XI, is England's last three-day fixture until just before the first Test.

Taylor, at least, is getting a chance to stake his claim. Richard Blakey has not been so fortunate, and barring an injury to Alec Stewart, or a dramatic loss of form by one or other of the main batsmen, he already seems doomed to a walk-on part in the weeks ahead.

"It's not possible to give everyone a game because there are so few matches, and we are trying to plan for the internationals, though some are unlucky," Graham Gooch said, as he announced the team at lunchtime after practice in the vast Babu Singh stadium yesterday.

Phillip DeFreitas, John Emburey and Robin Smith, the three players who suffered either injury or illness, also come in for their first match of the tour. Paul Jarvis, Devon Malcolm and Dermot Reeve drop out of the side which played Delhi in Faridabad, along with Michael Atherton, who became the latest to suffer stomach trouble.

In the absence of Atherton, who is not likely to play in the one-day matches and who might have been left out anyway after playing the longest innings in the opening match, Gatting moves up to open as a temporary measure. Stewart is expected to fill that position in the limited-overs matches, when wicketkeeping will make less demands on his stamina.

With the occasional vulture waiting optimistically beside the roads out of town, monkeys playing on the roofs of houses surrounding the hotel and two hairy pigs snuffling for food in the rough grass on the next corner as a constant stream of cycles, trishaws and honking cars pass outside the windows, Lucknow could hardly be further removed from Taylor's experience. But he is a cheerful tourist, and he is relishing the experience.

"When I came out the general idea was to get out here, acclimatise and wait for my opportunity," he said after being told of his selection by Gooch. "I'm very pleased it has come so soon. If you are kept waiting, there is a little more pressure on you when your chance does come. Of course the pressure will still be there but not so much."

First impressions can be deceptive, but he looks as if he will cope. He had an impressive net yesterday, getting some movement as the last traces of the early morning mist left a heavy atmosphere. If the match wicket is the same, and it looked like it, both he and the spinners may enjoy themselves.

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"Everybody is looking to

Maninder finds fortune is turning back in his favour

FROM PETER BALL

WITH the Indian team in such disarray in South Africa, several players in the Indian Board President's XI to meet the England touring team have much to play for. Nobody more so than Maninder Singh, who captains the side in the match in Lucknow today.

It represents a remarkable change of fortune for the tall, slow left-arm bowler, who three-and-a-half years ago suffered one of the worst cases of that appalling sporting phenomenon, "the yips", completely losing rhythm and control. Maninder even contemplated giving up the game "things had gone so badly".

"I seem to lose my action. I had all sorts of problems. I couldn't run in, I couldn't let go of the ball, it just stuck in my hand," he said, as he recollected a painful time earlier this week.



Maninder: survivor

Maninder had no idea what was happening to him. As a young player he had been hailed as the obvious successor to Bishen Bedi, and he came into the Indian side at 17 for the first of his 34 Tests, playing in three matches against West Indies and five against Pakistan in 1982-3.

He became a fixture in the Indian team, but fell ill on

contemplated giving up the game. Generous support from his coach, Gurcharan Singh, and encouragement from Imran Khan kept him going. In 1989 he just stood at the wicket and bowled without a run-up. He found he could bowl 30 overs for 40 runs "but I didn't take many wickets". He was recalled for three Tests against Pakistan, but with little success and he was discarded again.

With Delhi, progress was steeper. At first he found he could not loop the ball or turn it. "Gradually it is getting better," he said with modest understatement.

Last season his run was back to five paces. It is now up to seven, beginning with a kick on the heel which he says helps his rhythm, and he is the leading wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy. Against the tourists at Jaipur, where he deserved much better than his unflattering figures of two for 65, the old loop was there and so was much of the guile.

With Azharuddin's captaincy under heavy criticism, Maninder's selection to lead the President's XI may prove more significant than people at first thought. He is still only 27. For a slow bowler, the peak years lie ahead.

Maninder had no idea what was happening to him. As a young player he had been hailed as the obvious successor to Bishen Bedi, and he came into the Indian side at 17 for the first of his 34 Tests, playing in three matches against West Indies and five against Pakistan in 1982-3.

He became a fixture in the Indian team, but fell ill on

contemplated giving up the game. Generous support from his coach, Gurcharan Singh, and encouragement from Imran Khan kept him going. In 1989 he just stood at the wicket and bowled without a run-up. He found he could bowl 30 overs for 40 runs "but I didn't take many wickets". He was recalled for three Tests against Pakistan, but with little success and he was discarded again.

With Delhi, progress was steeper. At first he found he could not loop the ball or turn it. "Gradually it is getting better," he said with modest understatement.

Last season his run was back to five paces. It is now up to seven, beginning with a kick on the heel which he says helps his rhythm, and he is the leading wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy. Against the tourists at Jaipur, where he deserved much better than his unflattering figures of two for 65, the old loop was there and so was much of the guile.

With Azharuddin's captaincy under heavy criticism, Maninder's selection to lead the President's XI may prove more significant than people at first thought. He is still only 27. For a slow bowler, the peak years lie ahead.

DIRECT Premium Account

NEW RATES OF INTEREST

effective from Saturday 9th January 1993

	Gross % PA	Net equivalent % PA
Ordinary Account	1.00	0.75
Direct Premium Account		
Annual Interest		
£10,000 - £9,999	6.55	4.91
£10,000 - £24,999	7.25	5.44
£25,000+	7.40	5.55
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	7.00	5.25
£25,000+	7.15	5.36

Interest rates are variable. Net equivalent assumes the current basic rate income tax of 25%. Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or subject to the required registration, gross. The actual net amount receivable by an investor who has not registered for gross interest will depend upon the basic rate income tax in force at the time interest is credited or paid out. The Ordinary Share Account rate is payable on Annual Account balances below £1,000 and Monthly Account balances below £10,000.

For full details please ring Direct Savings Helpline on 0315 217 217

BRADFORD & BINGLEY BUILDING SOCIETY
Crossflatts, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 2UA

South Africa — batting and fielding

	M	INO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR	CT	St
J.N. Rhodes	4	1	275	118	45.83	1	1	1	1	1
K.C. Weir	4	1	227	108	41.40	1	1	1	1	1
W.J. Davis	3	1	197	108	39.40	1	1	1	1	1
B.M. Stanger	3	1	174	88	36.40	1	1	1	1	1
D.J. Gaisford	1	2	74	48	37.00	1	1	1	1	1
M.W. Pridgen	2	1	36	33	36.00	1	1	1	1	1
C.R. Hilditch	2	1	30	28	30.00	1	1	1	1	1
A.C. Hudson	4	1	245	90	30.62	1	1	1	1	1
O.J. Richardson	4	1	126	50	21.20	1	1	1	1	1
S.J. Cook	1	0	75	43	19.00	1	1	1	1	1
O. Henry	3	0	58	24	17.66	1	1	1	1	1
A.A. Donald	4	1	22	14	14.50	1	1	1	1	1
P.N. Gerson	1	0	20	14	14.00	1	1	1	1	1
B.N. Schultz	3	2	70	22	12.86	1	1	1	1	1

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Ave	SR	Sw	10w
A.A. Donald	175	48	304	20	15.20	7.84	2	1
K.C. Weir	109	44	190	9	21.11	3.22	1	1
B.M. Stanger	155	56	327	16	20.44	4.74	1	1
W.J. Davis	64	28	71	3	23.66	2.17	1	1
B.N. Schultz	51	18	101	4	25.25	2.37	1	1
O. Henry	71	15	189	8	23.63	2.56	1	1

India — batting and fielding

	M	INO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR	CT	St
Kapil Dev	4	1	232	102	42.40	1	1	1	1	1
P.K. Amre	4	1	189	102	38.40	1	1	1	1	1
S.R. Tendulkar	4	1	202	111	33.66	1	1	1	1	1
B.M. Stanger	3	1	98	48	26.00	1	1	1	1	1
S.V. Manjrekar	3	1	102	55	20.40	1	1	1	1	1
K.S. More	4	1	102	55	20.40	1	1	1	1	1
A.C. Hudson	4	1	102	55	20.40	1	1	1	1	1
V. Polu	2	0	20	18	20.00	1	1	1	1	1
M. Patel	4	1	112	62	18.66	1	1	1	1	1
A.R. Kumble	4	1	60	21	15.00	1	1	1	1	1
S.V. Manjrekar	3	1	102	55	20.40	1	1	1	1	1
V.V. Ramesh	1	0	21	21	10.50	1	1	1	1	1
J. Shrinani	3	0	6	5	6.00	1	1	1	1	1

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Ave	SR	Sw	10w
A.R. Kumble	25	67	487	18	26.54	6.63	1	1
J. Shrinani	180	50	315	10	31.50	4.38	1	1
P.K. Amre	81	4	215	2	53.75	2.36	1	1
Kapil Dev	185	49	299	8	37.37	3.43	1	1
M. Patel	144	4	215	6	35.83	4.40	1	1
V. Polu	131	41	245	4	61.25	3.73	1	1

Answers from page 36

SORBITE
(a) A nitride and carbide of titanium found as red microscopic crystals in pig iron, named after its identifier "Sorbite" has been detected by Sorby in many cast-irons as beautiful triangles, rhombs, hexagons and complex crosses.

VADOSE

(c) Of, pertaining to, or designating underground water occurring above the water-table, from the Latin *vadum* a shallow piece of water, *vadosus* shallow. "For that part of the subterranean circulation, bounded by the water-level, and called the vadose or shallow underground circulation, the law of a descending movement holds good."

HUMMUS

(b) *Humus* d'oeuvre, originating in Middle Eastern countries, made from ground chick-peas and sesame oil flavoured with lemon and garlic, also spelled *hummus* and other restaurant variants, from the Turkish *hummus* mashed chick-peas. "Passing up the usual *hummus* as a starter." "Order the paste of ground chick-peas, oil and lemon which is called *hummus*."

MASSIC

(a) Designating an ancient wine produced in Campania, Italy, and Latin *Massicus*, the name of a mountain in Campania, translation of Horace by B. Hooley, 1653: "In Massic Wines some booze their time away." "The Falernian grew upon the volcanic Campanian near Naples, where also the Massic was produced."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Solution: Certainly not After 1 Rxf6? Rd1+ 2Kh2 g3 would be mate. White played 1 Rxf7+ and won easily.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
Barclays League.
Third division:
Colchester v Doncaster (7.45)
Gillingham v Rochdale (7.45)
Northampton v Barnet.
BORD BASS LEAGUE OF IRELAND:
Premier division: Shelbourne v Drogheda United (7.45).
KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: First v Connors Quay.
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION:
First division: Norwich v Arsenal.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Warrington v Leeds (7.30).
HOCKEY
EUROPEAN NATIONS WOMEN'S INDOOR CUP: Czech Republic v France; Scotland v Austria; Germany v Denmark; Spain v Czechoslovakia.

OTHER SPORT

DARTS: Embassy world professional championship (Friday Green).
TABLE TENNIS: England v France (Saturday).

TOWCEST

RESULTS

Rushing Wild on stand-by for late switch to Sandown

By MICHAEL SEELY

IF CHESTER Barnes has his way, Rushing Wild will be switched from the Warwick Premier Chase tomorrow to the Anthony Milmay Peter Cazalet Memorial Chase at Sandown the same afternoon.

"He's only got 101 lb in the handicap, which is worth £20,000 compared with the £7,000 added to the conditions race at Warwick," said Martin Pipe's assistant.

Barnes was at Worcester yesterday to supervise a short-priced double with Gay Ruffian and Capability Brown, and added: "If Rushing Wild were to be switched to Sandown, it would be a great pity to lose him from the rest of his life."

the rider is still determined to partner Her Honour, 10-1 favourite for the Triumph Hurdle, in the Leasowes Novices Hurdle at Warwick.

"Even if Rushing Wild goes to Sandown, I could still ride at 1.20 at Warwick and be at Esher in time for the chase at 3.05. I haven't yet ridden Rushing Wild in a race, but I've schooled him and he's very impressive."

Despite the sudden going, the Worcester punters had a field day, five of the seven favourites being successful.

One of the easiest winners of the afternoon was Aahsaiyal.

A useful staying handicapper on the Flat when trained by Francis Lee, the 20,000 guinea purchase at the Newmarket sales was handled with insolent confidence by Adrian Maguire before beating Juno Away.

Just about the most relieved man at Worcester was Oliver Sherwood, after Beauchamp Express had experienced no difficulty in following up a recent Newton Abbot victory in the second division of the novices' hurdle.

"Things seem to be coming right at last," said the trainer. "First the horses were wrong

and then we had the freeze-up. Perhaps we'll have a good Cheltenham."

Backers also look like being on the mark in the concluding Broadway Handicap Hurdle when Quentin Durwood and Mark Pimman appeared to have the issue in safe keeping. But despite a mistake at the last, Overston finished strongly for Rodi Greene to snatch victory close home.

This was a welcome tonic for the winning trainer, Paul Nicholls, and particularly for his wife, Bridget, whose parents, John and Becky Brackenbury, are currently in Musgrove Park Hospital near Taunton after injuries sustained when the stable exercise brought his Neale Time horse, Keen Nowhere, overturned in the contrailow system on the M5.

"We're going to call and see them on the way back home," said the trainer. "John has got a broken left arm and Becky has internal injuries."

At the final declaration stage for The Ladbrokes, 27 runners were left in Ireland's richest handicap hurdle, King Creda, Sandella and Reza Khan were withdrawn.

Breeders seek BHB seat

A DIRECT voice for the breeding industry on the British Horseracing Board (BHB) was called for by David Gibson, president of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA), at its annual general meeting in London yesterday.

Lord Swaythling was the TBA's nominee on the board, but was elected by the Horseracing Advisory Council.

Gibson said: "We are for-

nate our nominee was elected, but that may not always be the case. We support the concept that neither the Jockey Club, owners, racecourses nor the industry committee's nominees are elected to pursue any particular interest.

"Once the board becomes more concerned with spending than raising revenue, sectional interests may come to the fore. It is then imperative our viewpoint is understood."

Winner is backed from 100-1

ONE of the most spectacular gambles seen on an Irish racecourse in recent years was landed at Punchestown yesterday when Big Ben Dun, backed in places at 100-1, romped home as 3-1 favourite (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

The seven-year-old, trained under permit by co. Clare farmer John O'Neill, was a maiden under every code and carried bottom weight in the Carrick Hill Handicap Chase.

But, always prominent, Big Ben Dun took it up, under Sean O'Donovan, four out to win by ten lengths, leading jaylars having accommodated him at all rates down from 100-1.

The meeting had opened with a dream Irish debut for American amateur Keith O'Brien aboard his uncle Michael's Near Miss in the Mares' Maiden Hurdle.

The 24-year-old, who has ridden 11 winners in the United States, is in Ireland on a month's working holiday.

His father, Belmont trainer Leo O'Brien, is best known in Europe for saddling Fourstars Allstar to plunder the 1991 Irish 2,000 Guineas.

Claxton Greene to confirm early Chepstow promise

CLAXTON Greene can follow up his recent Chepstow victory in an intriguing clash with the equally promising Askinfarney in the King's Liverpool Regiments' Chase at Towcester this afternoon.

Claxton Greene, bought by trainer Martin Pipe for 16,500gms on the strength of an impressive point-to-point record, jumped soundly at the Welsh course and came home clear of Thamestown Toosie, the only other finisher.

The misfortune of others in the race should not cloud the fact that he was always in command, and there is every prospect of his improving further for the experience.

However, he faces a formidable opponent in Askinfarney, who made a successful seasonal debut over course and distance in November when beating the smart staying novice Light Venerer by a length and a half.

Admittedly, Light Venerer had to concede 9lb that day, but it remains a creditable effort, and Askinfarney has since finished a good third to Travelling Wrong and Camelot Knight in a competitive race at Cheltenham. He will certainly test Claxton Greene.

However, for the nap I

MANDARIN

prefer the Josh Gifford-trained Martin's Lamp in the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle Qualifier. A National Hunt flat race winner last term, he made an impressive hurdling debut when beating Cool Clown - placed in good races since - over this course and distance in November.

He was not disgraced when, facing a stiff task under a big weight, he was sixth to Big



Gifford: good chance for Martin's Lamp

Best in a hot Sandown handicap next time.

This looks a better opportunity for him and he can take care of Royal Flamingo, the 50-1 winner of a minor race here last month, and Deependable, who was third to Could Be Better at Lingfield last time.

The dour stayer Bit Of A Clown is a standing dish here at Towcester and should once more give a good account of himself, but he had to work hard to edge out Direct here last month and is now 2lb higher in the handicap.

I oppose him with Rymmer King, who showed he still has something to offer with a fair sixth to Stirrup Cup at Nottingham on his reappearance. He was a respectable fourth to Gambling Royal here last season and has now begun to slip down the handicap.

At Esher, Jimmy Fitzgerald can complete a double with the former Cesarewitch winner Triangle (12.30) and the front-running Newlands General (1.00).

Dizzy's second to the comfortable winner Frickley at Ayr last weekend suggests she could be the answer to a highly competitive race for the Brougham Handicap Hurdle.

RUGBY LEAGUE

uffs awaits sentence after guilty verdict

MANCHESTER: A former professional rugby league player who was found guilty of manslaughter in the death of a 16-year-old boy, is expected to receive a life sentence.

The man, who was 24 at the time of the offence, was charged with the manslaughter of the boy, who was killed in a fight at a public house in Manchester.

The trial, which lasted for two weeks, ended with the jury returning a verdict of manslaughter.

GOING: HEAVY

12.40 KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; £1,400; 10 runners)

1. BEAUCHAMP GRACE (5) (M. J. Jones) 11-10
2. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
5. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
6. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
7. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
8. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
9. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP GRACE has been in good form, winning the 12.40 King's African Rifles Novices Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by M. J. Jones.

KILBURN has also been in good form, winning the 12.40 King's African Rifles Novices Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

2.10 ROYAL FLYING CORPS HANDICAP CHASE (24.20; 2m 6f; 11 runners)

1. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
5. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
6. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
7. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
8. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
9. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

FORM FOCUS

GOODHART has been in good form, winning the 2.10 Royal Flying Corps Handicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

EDINBURGH

MANDARIN 12.30 Kadari. 1.00 Newlands-General. 1.00 Dizzy. 2.00 Rare Fire. 2.30 Seagull Hollow. 3.00 Thesidier. 3.30 Ring Corbitts.

FORM FOCUS

MANDARIN has been in good form, winning the 12.30 Kadari at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

2.00 AUCHINCLOSS NOVICES HANOICAP CHASE (22.24; 3m; 13 runners)

1. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
5. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
6. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
7. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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9. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE CHAIN has been in good form, winning the 2.00 Auchincloss Novices Hanoicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP GRACE has been in good form, winning the 12.40 King's African Rifles Novices Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by M. J. Jones.

KILBURN has also been in good form, winning the 12.40 King's African Rifles Novices Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

GOODHART has been in good form, winning the 2.10 Royal Flying Corps Handicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

MANDARIN has been in good form, winning the 12.30 Kadari at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE CHAIN has been in good form, winning the 2.00 Auchincloss Novices Hanoicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

1.10 KING'S LIVERPOOL REGIMENT NOVICES CHASE (23.48; 3m; 10 runners)

1. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
5. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
6. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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8. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
9. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

FORM FOCUS

ASSURANCE has been in good form, winning the 1.10 King's Liverpool Regiment Novices Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

MANDARIN has been in good form, winning the 12.30 Kadari at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE CHAIN has been in good form, winning the 2.00 Auchincloss Novices Hanoicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

1.40 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MILITIA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (22.07; 2m 5f; 18 runners)

1. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
5. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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8. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
9. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

FORM FOCUS

ASSURANCE has been in good form, winning the 1.40 Northamptonshire Militia Conditional Jockeys Selling Handicap Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

MANDARIN has been in good form, winning the 12.30 Kadari at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE CHAIN has been in good form, winning the 2.00 Auchincloss Novices Hanoicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

ASSURANCE has been in good form, winning the 1.40 Northamptonshire Militia Conditional Jockeys Selling Handicap Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

MANDARIN has been in good form, winning the 12.30 Kadari at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE CHAIN has been in good form, winning the 2.00 Auchincloss Novices Hanoicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE CHAIN has been in good form, winning the 2.00 Auchincloss Novices Hanoicap Chase at Worcester yesterday. He was ridden by S. J. Jones.

Worcester

12.40 KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; £1,400; 10 runners)
1. BEAUCHAMP GRACE (5) (M. J. Jones) 11-10
2. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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9. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. KILBURN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

Worcester

2.10 ROYAL FLYING CORPS HANDICAP CHASE (24.20; 2m 6f; 11 runners)
1. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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5. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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9. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

Worcester

2.00 AUCHINCLOSS NOVICES HANOICAP CHASE (22.24; 3m; 13 runners)
1. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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5. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
6. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
7. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
8. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
9. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

Worcester

1.10 KING'S LIVERPOOL REGIMENT NOVICES CHASE (23.48; 3m; 10 runners)
1. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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Worcester

1.40 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MILITIA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (22.07; 2m 5f; 18 runners)
1. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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9. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

Worcester

2.10 ROYAL FLYING CORPS HANDICAP CHASE (24.20; 2m 6f; 11 runners)
1. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
5. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
6. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
7. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
8. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
9. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 2011-11. GOODHART (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

Worcester

2.00 AUCHINCLOSS NOVICES HANOICAP CHASE (22.24; 3m; 13 runners)
1. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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9. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
10. 1-4-12. BREAK THE CHAIN (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10

Worcester

1.10 KING'S LIVERPOOL REGIMENT NOVICES CHASE (23.48; 3m; 10 runners)
1. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
2. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
3. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
4. 1-1-1. ASSURANCE (2) (S. J. Jones) 11-10
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Leading scorer should be back in ten days

DalGLISH predicts swift return for injured Shearer

By IAN ROSS AND LOUISE TAYLOR

FEARS that Alan Shearer, the Blackburn Rovers and England forward, could face a lengthy lay-off were partially allayed yesterday.

Shearer suffered a recurrence of an injury to his right knee during the 3-2 win over Cambridge United in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Ewood Park on Wednesday and was forced to leave the field after 30 minutes.

Although the Premier League's leading goalscorer is unlikely to play in the home game against Wimbledon tomorrow, it is expected he will be fully fit within ten days.

"I'm not particularly worried," Kenny DalGLISH, the Blackburn manager, said. "Having missed two games with the initial problem, it

may well be that he came back one match too early.

"I don't think the problem is as bad as it was before. The trouble with injuries of this nature is that you can only push yourself so far in training before you have to put yourself to the test in a match situation."

Two goals from Newell and one from Weir propelled Blackburn into the semi-finals of the competition for the first time in 30 years. They take on Ipswich Town or Sheffield Wednesday over two legs.

Cambridge, who have yet to win under Ian Atkins, their new manager, scored through Clayton and Heathcote.

Patrick Anderson, the Sweden defender, yesterday completed his £800,000 transfer

from Malmö to Blackburn after being granted a work permit.

Crystal Palace joined Blackburn in the last four after a 3-1 victory over Chelsea at Selhurst Park. Nduka, 17, and Watts, 18, scored a goal each after Townsend had cancelled out Coleman's opener. Palace face Arsenal or Nottingham Forest in the last four.

Arsenal earned a quarter-final tie with Forest after a 1-0 fourth-round win at Scarborough, of the third division, on Wednesday. Nigel Winterburn's 51st-minute goal was enough to see them through.

Ian Brightwell, the Manchester City defender, has been ruled out for the rest of the season. He was injured in the 1-1 FA Cup third-round draw with Reading at Maine Road on Saturday and went into hospital yesterday for surgery on a detached tendon in his right knee.

Peter Reid, the City player-manager, said: "The operation was a complete success. We haven't been given a time scale for Ian's recovery but I doubt whether we will see him again this season."

Coca-Cola Cup Semi-Final Draw: Blackburn Rovers v Ipswich Town; Sheffield Wednesday v Crystal Palace v Arsenal or Nottingham Forest. First legs, week commencing Feb 7; second legs, week commencing Mar 6.

No escape for Strachan

GORDON Strachan, the Leeds United midfielder, can expect a suspension from domestic football as a result of being sent off against Fiorentina in a tournament in Florence earlier this week, even though the games were only 45 minutes a-side.

Strachan was shown the red card after furiously contesting a decision, having already

been booked a minute earlier for a late challenge.

An FA official confirmed yesterday that the length of the matches made no difference under the disciplinary code. "If he was sent off for a second bookable offence then he will be banned for one match," he said. "But if it was for foul and abusive language, then it will be two."

Ndlovu jets off on his travels

BOBBY Gould, the Coventry City manager, yesterday expressed his concern over the continued loss of Peter Ndlovu, the Zimbabwe international forward, to World Cup matches (Chris Moore writes).

Ndlovu, 19, will miss Coventry's next two Premier League fixtures, against Nottingham Forest at Highfield Road tomorrow and the leaders, Norwich City, at Carrow Road next Saturday.

Ndlovu will fly back to England after an international match in Angola on Sunday for Coventry's postponed FA Cup third-round tie at Norwich on Wednesday, before returning to Zimbabwe the following day for another World Cup qualifying match against Togo next Sunday.

Under Fifa regulations, Coventry are obliged to release Ndlovu for a minimum seven international, even though they receive no compensation.

He will also be required for Zimbabwe's return game with Angola on January 31 and for next month's game with Egypt. "It's all proving very disruptive to his career in this country," Gould said.

Ndlovu's absence tomorrow means that John Williams keeps his place in the attack. Coventry have signed Keith Rowland, the Bournemouth and Republic of Ireland midfielder, player, on a month's loan.

Patrick Anderson, the Sweden defender, has completed his transfer from Malmö to Blackburn Rovers for £800,000.

Wright a player too hungry to succeed

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IAN Wright's knack for scoring goals is rivalled only by his capacity for courting controversy. He is often described as a "firebrand" or "having a short fuse" and a common theme running through his growing list of misdemeanours is that they are either reactions to other players, or the crowd. He is certainly too easily provoked.

Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager who signed Wright from non-league Greenock Borough, at the age of 22, spares him no sympathy. "Temperament is a bit like a muscle which can be controlled," Coppell said. "Ian is an intelligent footballer and can control it."

Ironically, it is probably Wright's biggest attribute as a player that has occasionally taken him over the edge. Rejected by other League clubs while a teenager,

Wright joined Palace keen to make up for lost time — and prove a point.

Coppell said: "I have never seen a hungrier player. Coming into the game late made him all action. Of all the players I've dealt with, Ian is the one who most wanted to succeed. He gets angry, really angry, you can see it on his face."

"He collected a lot of bookings at first but calmed down when he realised there was no point tackling a full back in a meaningless position."

Some feel Wright might have calmed down more had he joined a club other than Arsenal. Although George Graham, their manager, is regarded as authoritarian, Arsenal have an unhappy recent record of disciplinary problems, both on and off the field.

Personable, articulate and popular off the pitch, Wright has a jaunty air, which can border on the arrogant. He arrived at yesterday's FA hearing in London sporting a leather cap and clearly relaxed wearing designer clothes.

Now that he has reached the top by becoming a regular member of Graham Taylor's squad, Wright's critics fear he is vulnerable in that he might be "wound up" by foreign players, expert at gamesmanship, and could bring discredit to England by retaliating.

At 29, time is not on his side.



Wright: quick to react



Where's that gone? Marc Cox watches his drive off the 1st tee at Rye. He launched his defence of the President's Putter with a win

Americans set shining example

By PATRICIA DAVIES

HARRY Perkins, of Dallas, Texas, and Martha Redington, of New York, will never play in the President's Putter but they were the undoubted stars when the 66th edition of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society's annual outing started at Rye yesterday.

On a damp, mizzly day, with

visibility at a premium until darkness set in, the two Americans, golfing traditionalists to their frozen fingertips, fished up to watch shadowy, muffled figures do battle with their own rickety bones and the elements as well as their opponents. Perkins and Redington knew none of the competitors — except one or two by reputation — but they arrived at Garwick and head-

ed straight for Rye: the sole purpose of their trip was to watch the Putter. If the participants are widely regarded as crazy to compete at such a place at such a time, where does that leave people who have crossed the Atlantic simply to watch?

Perkins is involved in investment on the stock market and presumably needs a cool head for that but his passion is

Bernard Darwin and it was from Darwin's writings that he learned of the Putter and came to love it. "It embodies the spirit of golf," he said.

Perkins and Redington wrote to Donald Steel — "He's won the Putter in three different decades," Perkins confided — and to his eternal credit Steel, former golf correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph* and now a golf course architect of note, rose to the occasion by winning two matches and staying on course for his century. Win or lose, it is match No. 98 this morning.

Steel beat John Palmer in the first round and then had a tough tussle with Andy Swanson, a mighty hitter of the ball, in the second. Swanson lost a ball at the short 7th, their 16th, to go two down but won the 8th before unleashing a topped drive of classic proportions at the 9th, to ensure Steel's nerves did not have to live up to his name.

Names and reputations, of course, count for nothing in matchplay and Brian Ingleby, winner on his first appearance in 1991 and tipped by many to win again, lost a great, battling encounter to David Meacher, the 1987 winner, at the 17th.

Mike MacPhee, less celebrated, won two close matches, presumably the balance being tipped in his favour by the weight of his initials, all four of them.

YACHTING

Jumping gun to cost Interspray second place

By BARRY PICKTHALL

PAUL Jeffes and his crew aboard Interspray reached Hobart yesterday to take eighth place on the second day of the British Steel Challenge round the world race, but they retain second place overall.

Interspray's combined time for the two legs from Southampton amounts to 81 days, 17hr 11min, some 27 hours

behind John Chittenden's leading yacht, Nuclear Electric. This, however, is before at least three other crews are credited for time lost going to help Richard Tudor's dismasted yacht, British Steel II, or the two-hour penalty Jeffes is likely to face for rusting the start in Rio six weeks ago is taken into account. If that is considered, the crew drops to third place, less than an hour behind Hofbrau Lager.

Jeffes said the 8,800-mile stage was less daunting and more exciting than expected, and even a frustrating 16 hours spent becalmed off Cape Horn had his high points. "We lost 100 miles on the fleet," Paul Buchanan said, "but we sat in the sun, I juggled and Dominic Matthews morris danced while dolphins played around the boat."

Phone-Poulenc, in ninth position, which lost three days

on the fleet after pulling into the Falklands for repairs, is expected to arrive in Hobart tomorrow.

RESULTS: Second leg (Rio de Janeiro to Hobart): Finishers: 1. Nuclear Electric (J. Chittenden), 48 days 23hr 23min; 2. British Steel II (J. Tudor), 49 days 14hr 45min; 3. Hofbrau Lager (P. Buchanan), 50 days 14hr 45min; 4. Phone-Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 51 days 14hr 45min; 5. Interspray (P. Jeffes), 52 days 14hr 45min; 6. British Steel (J. Chittenden), 53 days 14hr 45min; 7. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 54 days 14hr 45min; 8. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 55 days 14hr 45min; 9. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 56 days 14hr 45min; 10. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 57 days 14hr 45min; 11. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 58 days 14hr 45min; 12. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 59 days 14hr 45min; 13. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 60 days 14hr 45min; 14. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 61 days 14hr 45min; 15. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 62 days 14hr 45min; 16. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 63 days 14hr 45min; 17. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 64 days 14hr 45min; 18. J. Poulenc (J. Poulenc), 65 days 14hr 45min; 19. J. Poulenc (J. 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BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (57021) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (8441971)
- 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk leads a studio discussion on a topical subject (834955) 9.45 Rose King. Game show. The guest is Blue Peter presenter John Leslie (s) (344555)
- 10.00 News, regional news and weather (4904717) 10.05 Playdays: For the very young (s) (251444)
- 10.30 Good Morning. With Anne and Mike. Weekly magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (919753)
- 12.15 Pebble MILE. Music and conversation hosted by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (348155) 12.55 Regional News and weather (243555)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hanton. (Ceefax) Weather (55330) 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (5819314) 1.50 Eldorado (s). (Ceefax) (s) (7133455)
- 2.20 First Letter First. Word game hosted by Don Maclean (s) (5450721) 2.45 The Flying Doctors. Medical drama series s et in Australia (s) (575901)
- 3.30 Cartoon Double Bill (703155) 3.45 Junior Jungle. A new cartoon series (s) (8079804) 3.55 Quick Draw McGraw (s) (495428) 4.05 Jeopardy. Part two of Sir Quinlan Quinlan Hunt the Yell (9892069) 4.15 Rude Dog and the Dweebies (s) (549555)



Into the lion's den: Packham, Nutkins, Strachan (4.30pm)

- 4.30 The Really Wild Show. CHOICE: The wildlife series for children returns for an extended 12-week run with the jaunty Michaela Strachan joining the regular presenters Terry Nutkins and Chris Packham. As before, the show is fast, lively and enthusiastic, with the emphasis on providing solid information in the most easily digestible form. If an item on bats can be dressed up in a tuxedo and Robin, so much the better. If today's youngsters need to get their messages in a noisy, restless pop video style, then give it to them. We have come a long way from dear old Johnny Morris. This afternoon's programme is about how animals climb and walk across water and answers a question which must have taxed many a brain, young and old: how does a fly walk upside down on a ceiling? (Ceefax) (s) (2235759)
- 4.55 Newsround Extra. Juliet Morris joins a secret raid to free wild slaves working in a carpet factory in India (819068) 5.05 Grange Hill. Drama set in a comprehensive school. (Ceefax) (s) (3700446)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s). (Ceefax) (s) (331717) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (553)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (311). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (2330)
- 7.00 Entertainment Express. The first of a new magazine covering news and features from showbusiness and the media, presented by Selina Scott. (Ceefax) (585) Northern Ireland: Sportszone
- 8.00 Your Best Shot. A new family entertainment hosted by Mari Caine in which members of the public compete with celebrities to discover who is best at various tasks. The guests include Lesley Joseph of Birds of a Feather. (Ceefax) (s) (800175)
- 8.50 Points of View with Anne Robinson (s) (830430)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional News and weather (5021)
- 9.30 Love Hurts. Continuing the second series of the romantic drama created by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran with Adam Faith and Zed Wannenmaker as the in-and-out-of-love lovers. (Ceefax) (s) (571798) Northern Ireland: Entertainment Express 10.50-11.35 Cagney and Lacey
- 11.00 Film: Gator (1979) starring Burt Reynolds and Lauren Hutton. Routine, stunt-filled action thriller with the villain of White Lightning on the side of the good guys when he infiltrates a gang to get evidence against a crooked politician. It marked Reynolds's directing debut. (87427) Northern Ireland: 11.35 Terry Wogan 12.15-12.20 Film: The Last Command
- 12.55am News (827422)

BBC2

- 6.00 Breakfast News (452231) 8.15 Travel Show UK Mini Guides. The Lincolnshire walks (s) (766321) 8.20 Ours to Keep. The historic city of York (s) (7024795)
- 9.00 Film: The Kidnappers (1953) b/w starring Duncan Macrae, Jean Anderson and Adrienne Cori. A charming children's drama set in turn-of-the-century Nova Scotia directed by Philip Leacock (5459)
- 10.30 Film: A Woman's Face (1933) b/w starring Ingrid Bergman. Swedish melodrama about a woman, scarred as a child, who turns to crime. Directed by Gustaf Molander. In Swedish with English subtitles (5425885)
- 12.05 One Man's Forest. Worcestershire naturalist Norman Hickin and the Wyre forest (s) (587488) 12.30 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin prepares sautéed eggplant, roast, snapper in potato jackets with salad, and baked apple tart (s) (13853)
- 1.00 Made by Man. The skill of the organ maker (s) (8088427) 1.20 Fingertown. Puppets (s) (8486551) 1.35 The Wild Side of Tom. The last in the series about urban wildlife (s) (9438773)
- 2.00 News and weather (9455788) followed by The Worldview. What it takes to be a Royal Navy field gunner (s) (533053)
- 3.00 News and weather (9450404) followed by World Darts. Highlights of yesterday's quarter-finals (s) (3073243)
- 4.20 Catchword. Game for wordsmiths (s) (500445) 4.50 Behind the Headlines with Shyama Perera (s) (8344825) 5.20 Film. 93 Special featuring Kevin Costner (s) (849427)
- 6.00 Sillyway. Classic puppet series (s). (Ceefax) (754156)
- 6.25 The Man From U.N.C.L.E. Spoof secret agent escapades starring David McCallum and Robert Vaughn (s). (Ceefax) (730311)
- 7.15 Dr. Who. Episode one of a six-part adventure. The Genesis of the Daleks, starring Tom Baker (s). (Ceefax) (305853)
- 7.45 Lessons in Freedom. An Education Special that makes a return, visit to Liverpool's Scotland Road Free School 21 years after the BBC first filmed there (908972)
- 8.30 Front Garden. The cool and sensible Gay Search hosts a six-part series on how to freshen up a front garden. Search was co-presenter of the excellent Old Garden, New Gardener and the new programmes place a similar emphasis on practical improvements at moderate cost. The first examples are four adjoining gardens in a Victorian terrace. A designer, Jean Bishop, is called in to suggest layouts which both meet the tastes of the occupants (one wants to grow herbs, another to sunbathe) and conform to the ambience of the area. There are tips on paths, soil improvement and planting and a fast forward to show what even a couple of months can do to the most unpromising patch. The value of the project is that it deals with real gardens, not the bogus television ones where the soil is as soft as sand and weeds are unknown. (Ceefax) (5427)
- 9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. More worldly wisdom from Scotland's streetwise philosopher. Starring Gregor Fisher (s). (Ceefax) (s) (983)



Private life of an enigmatic writer: Graham Greene (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Arena: The Graham Greene Trilogy. CHOICE: The new season of Arena begins with Donald Sturrock's three-part study of Graham Greene, spread over consecutive evenings. Greene is worth this generous treatment, though even three hours leave sizable gaps. There is nothing about his time as a film critic and only a cursory glance at his writing for the cinema. Attempts to profile Greene while he was alive always foundered on his notorious reluctance to be interviewed on camera. Though he broke the rules more often than he sometimes realised. The other inhibition was opening up his turbulent and secretive private life. That gap, at least, is adequately filled, with much about his various mistresses and a rare interview with his widow (though she shares his dislike of the camera). Tonight's instalment runs to 1939 and publication of *The Power and the Glory*. (Ceefax) (90156)
- 10.30 Newswatch with Sue Cameron (81953) 11.15 Weather (435750) 11.20 Darts (s) (135330) 12.00 Behind the Headlines (s) (57155)
- 12.30 Film: The War Is Over (1985) b/w starring Yves Montand. The Classic French Cinema season continues with this political drama set in Paris 25 years after the end of the Spanish civil war. Directed by Alain Resnais (833430). Ends at 2.25
- 3.25 Entertainment UK (842723) 4.30 Sportsweek (4928) 4.30 News (5118) 4.55-5.30 Johnnie (8593)
- 5.30 Yorkshire. CHOICE: 1.45-1.50 Film: The Young Doves (542232) 3.25-3.30 The Young Doves (542232) 3.30-3.35 The Young Doves (542232) 3.35-3.40 The Young Doves (542232) 3.40-3.45 The Young Doves (542232) 3.45-3.50 The Young Doves (542232) 3.50-3.55 The Young Doves (542232) 3.55-4.00 The Young Doves (542232) 4.00-4.05 The Young Doves (542232) 4.05-4.10 The Young Doves (542232) 4.10-4.15 The Young Doves (542232) 4.15-4.20 The Young Doves (542232) 4.20-4.25 The Young Doves (542232) 4.25-4.30 The Young Doves (542232) 4.30-4.35 The Young Doves (542232) 4.35-4.40 The Young Doves (542232) 4.40-4.45 The Young Doves (542232) 4.45-4.50 The Young Doves (542232) 4.50-4.55 The Young Doves (542232) 4.55-5.00 The Young Doves (542232) 5.00-5.05 The Young Doves (542232) 5.05-5.10 The Young Doves (542232) 5.10-5.15 The Young Doves (542232) 5.15-5.20 The Young Doves (542232) 5.20-5.25 The Young Doves (542232) 5.25-5.30 The Young Doves (542232) 5.30-5.35 The Young Doves (542232) 5.35-5.40 The Young Doves (542232) 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Arsenal forward guilty of misconduct

Wright handed
a 'standard'
three-match ban

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IAN Wright, the Arsenal and England striker, was yesterday suspended for three first-team matches after being found guilty of misconduct by the Football Association. A three-man disciplinary commission upheld a charge that Wright had directed a punch at David Howells, of Tottenham Hotspur, during last month's north London derby at White Hart Lane.

The commission also fined George Graham, the Arsenal manager, £500 for misconduct after finding him guilty of making improper remarks to Alf Buhsh, the referee in charge of the same ill-tempered Premier League match, which Tottenham won 1-0.

It is almost a year to the day that Wright, 29, was fined £1,500 by the FA for making improper gestures, allegedly spitting, towards supporters at Oldham Athletic. This latest punishment raises questions about his future as an England international.

Wright has won five international caps and has yet to score his first goal for his country. He hopes to score it in next month's World Cup qualifier against San Marino at Wembley on February 17 by which time that suspension will be behind him.

More immediately, Arsenal will be deprived of their leading scorer's services for the Premier League matches at Manchester City on January

16 and home to Liverpool on January 31. Wright will also sit out Arsenal's fourth-round FA Cup tie at Highbury against either Leeds United or Charlton Athletic on January 25.

Wright will be free to play against Sheffield United at Highbury on Saturday but, with the striker having scored 15 times this season, the ban threatens Graham's ambitions this season.

Mike Wilmore, the FA's public relations manager, described Wright's sanction as a "standard punishment" for misconduct. Although Buhsh failed to spot the punch, it was picked up by television cameras. Wilmore said: "Referees cannot be expected to see everything."

Graham is likely to regard his £500 fine for comments made to Buhsh at half-time as a lucky escape. It is the second time in five years that the Arsenal manager has been called before the FA for alleged abuse of officials and he might have expected a touch-line ban. His case had not been expected to be dealt with for a few weeks, but the FA agreed to an unexpected request from Graham to decide it yesterday.

After the hearing at Lancaster Gate, which lasted two-and-a-quarter hours, Graham and Wright declined to comment. The pair rushed out to a waiting silver BMW and, after

Graham was jostled by photographers, were whisked away. They were later followed by Buhsh, the three-man FA commission — Jack Hayward (Essex) and vice-chairman of the FA's disciplinary committee, Barry Bright (Kent and chief executive of Gillingham) and Roy Barton (Leicestershire and Rutland) — along with Ken Friar, the Arsenal chief executive and Richard Carr, an Arsenal director, who had put the case for the defence.

Friar said: "Both Ian and George have accepted their punishment and do not intend to appeal against the decisions."

Wright has been booked ten times since being signed for £2.5 million from Crystal Palace 15 months ago. His record should, however, be viewed in the context of an Arsenal team which, despite Graham's reputation as a strict disciplinarian, has been shown 27 yellow cards since August.

While Graham Taylor, the England manager, has complete control over team affairs, the FA retains power to veto the selection of a player it feels does not deserve international honours. That will almost certainly not happen in Wright's case and it will be down to Taylor to decide if the striker is the right attacking partner for Alan Shearer.

His susceptibility to provocation could count against Wright but, in mitigation, Taylor will be aware that he has been sent off only once in his professional career — when playing for Palace against Bournemouth in April 1988.

Wright's wrongs, page 34

Benetton
to enter
Indy Car

By STEPHEN SLATER

TOM Walkinshaw, race director of the Benetton Formula One team, announced yesterday that he would enter two cars in Indy Car racing later this year, with the aim of seriously tackling the American championship in 1994.

Speaking at the opening day of the Autosport International Show at the NEC in Birmingham, Walkinshaw first unveiled a competition model of the Jaguar XJ220 sports car designed to race at Le Mans, then confirmed he had acquired two Lola-Ford cars similar to those being used by Nigel Mansell in the Indy Car series. At Phoenix yesterday, rain prevented Mansell from testing the Newman-Haas Indy car.

The 1,000-horsepower, alcohol-fuelled Indy cars will be used to contest five races this year, commencing with the Indianapolis 500 in May, as an overture to competing in the full championship next season. Although Walkinshaw refused to comment on his choice of drivers, one option could be Martin Brundle, who drove for Benetton in 1992, but is now without a seat in Formula One.

Despite his decision and Mansell's presence, Walkinshaw denied that Indy Car racing is challenging Formula One. "Formula one is a world championship, where Indy Car is a purely American series," he said.

Other announcements at the show demonstrated that motor sport is backing the recession. The star of the show, the Jaguar XJ220-C, is a lighter and more powerful development of the world's fastest road car, aimed at the proposed GT category for modified road cars, which will include the Le Mans 24-hour race.

British rallying received a boost when Michelin announced the sponsorship of two factory-backed Ford Escort Cosworths for Malcolm Wilson and Robbie Head in the British open rally.



Show stopper: Katarina Witt, who will be performing with Holiday on Ice, skates at Wembley yesterday

Ice princess who leaves you
dead with her shotgun smileSimon Barnes meets Katarina Witt and
discovers that as well as cutting a fine
figure, the former Olympic champion has
the competitive fire to conquer again

OVER 'ere, darlin'. Look at me, Katarina. Smile. Katarina. Laughin' eyes, darlin'. Take your top off please, darlin'.

Katarina Witt, laughing-eyed, does no such thing. All right, then, under an umbrella in the Bayswater rain. Smile, darlin'. And Katarina, vivid mount, face strongly defined by black eyebrows, smiles her shotgun smile and slays the lot.

She was talking about how she loves a challenge. "I need a mountain in front of my nose." Well, so do I. But am I up to the challenge of writing about Katarina Witt without mentioning beauty or sexual attraction?

"No, I am not. That is far too precipitous a mountain. Well, could I write about Lindorf Christie without mentioning the fact that he runs awfully quickly? You can quite easily write about Christie without pointing out that he is tall and black and looks cool; you can write about Katrin Krabbe without mentioning that she is six foot tall and frightfully pretty.

Both these people produce performances that can be measured. Their looks affect their earning power; not their results. But Witt, Olympic figure skating champion in 1984 and 1988 and four times world champion, competes in a sport where you get marks for artistic impression. And you can't take sex out of any art, let alone dancing. To take two wild and random examples, both the Mona Lisa and *Fanny Hill* are, in their way, about sex. Sexual attraction is part of Katarina Witt's sporting weaponry: flashing eyes are as much a part of performance as a double salchow.

But let us get the obvious

questions over with. Yes, Witt is even more charming in real life than on the screen. And what is more, without stage make-up, she is even prettier. If you ask her a question at a press conference, she smiles straight into your eyes before answering. This, I found, has the approximate effect of a double measure of Jack Daniels taken in one swallow, ice cubes and all.

Well, is it art or is it sport? Is there artistry in what Fede did on the football field, is there sport in what Katarina does? Bah! Angels on a needle-point. I could watch either for hours, and that is quite enough to be going along with.

Witt was in London yesterday for about ten minutes to promote her role in a Holiday on Ice show, to be called *Barjos and Balalaikas*. There will be skating teddy bears, clowns, showgirls on skates — the usual sort of thing. Plus Katarina. "We're paying her more than we have ever paid any other skater," the show's organiser said. Money!

And that brings us, inevitably, to the Olympic Games. Witt, 27, hopes to take part in the next Winter Games, which take place next year. If we are going to have Magic Johnson and Steffi Graf, we might just as well have Katarina.

She has applied through the German skating federation for reinstatement under the bewildering and shifting Olympic regulations, and it

should go through all right. She turned professional after the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary.

"I need the adrenalin of competition again," she said. "I want to take the joys of skating back into the Olympic Games." Philosophy? I asked. Double Jack Daniels.

"To tell a story on the ice. To tell it with the soul and the heart. For people to see it, to see that it is not a job, a job where you do more and more triple salchows — but to use art to bring a message across."

Most top-class athletes in every sport are players. The fact that they play in front of vast numbers of people is incidental. Witt is a player too, a competitor relishing the latest challenge. But more than that, she is a performer too. That means that what she does is defined by the existence of an audience.

One person in the auditorium transforms a play into a performance. A press conference, too, is a kind of performance. To a person who is a performer by nature, an audience is the water of life. And the Olympics has the biggest audience of any show in the history of the world. To Katarina Witt, performance is all that matters in the world: everything else is a load of balalaikas.

Barjos and Balalaikas will be at Wembley Arena from February 2 to 28.

Gooch
awaits
century
ruling

By IVO TENNANT

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) is to make a statement today on whether Graham Gooch's century for an unofficial England XI against South Africa in 1982 should still be considered first-class. Sir Colin Cowdrey and Lt-Col John Stephenson, respectively chairman and secretary of the council, debated the issue with the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) at Lord's yesterday.

Given that England begin their match against the Board President's XI at Lord's today, it is imperative that a ruling be made as quickly as possible as to whether the captain has scored 98 or 99 first-class centuries. It is for his sake as much as for the game's many statisticians.

The next meeting of the ICC is not scheduled until February 2, by which time Gooch is likely to have added to the centuries he has made in his 20-year career.

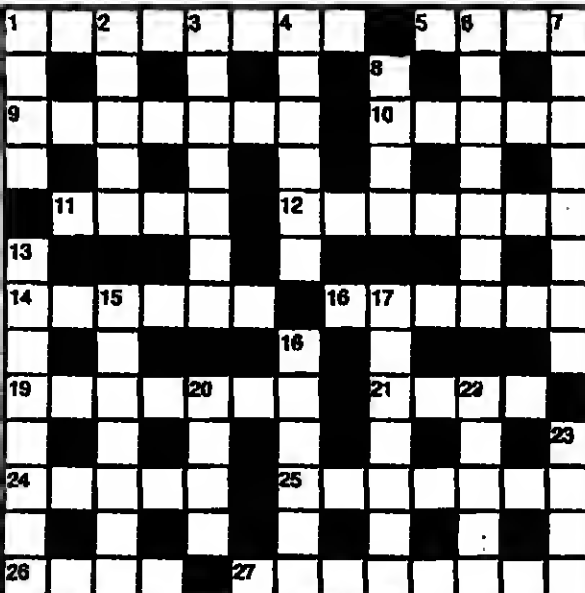
"I would rather stick by what I said earlier this week when asked out of the blue for a ruling on Gooch's centuries," Stephenson said. He indicated that Gooch's innings in 1982 would probably not be considered first-class.

Clearly, the need for swift clarification will not give Cowdrey time to discuss the issue with the member countries of the ICC, so any ruling made today will not necessarily be the final word on the subject.

He will also be as aware as anyone, though, that the moment at which a cricketer reaches a century of centuries — in his case, 1973, the year in which Gooch made his first-class debut — should not be spoiled by wrangling. The stroke is cherished, photographed and never forgotten.

Taylor's task, page 32

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2990



ACROSS

- 1 Jewish skullcap (8)
- 5 Just (4)
- 9 Rich (7)
- 10 Bay window (5)
- 11 Dishes (4)
- 12 Dusk (7)
- 14 Customs men (6)
- 15 Very positive (6)
- 19 Henry VIII hunting palace (7)
- 21 Unsullied (4)
- 24 Border (5)
- 25 Tail buzzing viper (7)
- 26 Queen's counsel (4)
- 27 Carry weapons (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 Laborious march (4)
- 2 Repeated refrain (5)
- 3 Latin Odysseus (7)
- 4 Renal organ (6)
- 6 Absurd (7)
- 7 Denote (8)
- 8 Skin aperture (4)
- 13 Highest British peak (3,5)
- 15 Regulate (7)
- 17 Current music leader (3,4)
- 18 Accusation (6)
- 20 Employs (4)
- 22 Straight edge (5)
- 23 Greek war god (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2989

ACROSS: 1 Hat trick 7 Veldt 8 Aristotle 9 Cur 10 Sage 11 Double 13 Yorker 14 Fascia 15 Crammer 16 Armed up 17 Azein 18 Swath 24 Towel 25 Snow drop

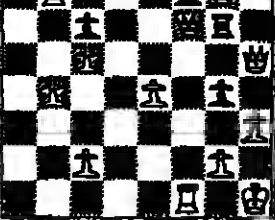
DOWN: 1 Hearsay 2 Trigger 3 Rate 4 Cotton 5 Place 6 Stork 7 Verb 8 up 12 Haploid 15 Crammer 16 Armed up 17 Azein 18 Swath 19 Draw 22 Chew

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WINNERS MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Short, Speelman, London 1991. This position is from a crucial stage during an earlier match in the current Candidates series. White has been winning for some time, and now has a chance to capture the Black queen. Should he take the bait? On January 10, Nigel Short's Candidate's Final match against Jan Timman starts in El Escorial, near Madrid.



Watch out for daily reports in The Times. Solution on page 32.

WORD GAMES

By PHILIP HOWARD

SORBITE

- a. A morning snack
- b. Crystals in pig iron
- c. Member of the Tibetan Band

VADOSE

- a. Blethering
- b. Voluntary medical assistant
- c. Underground water

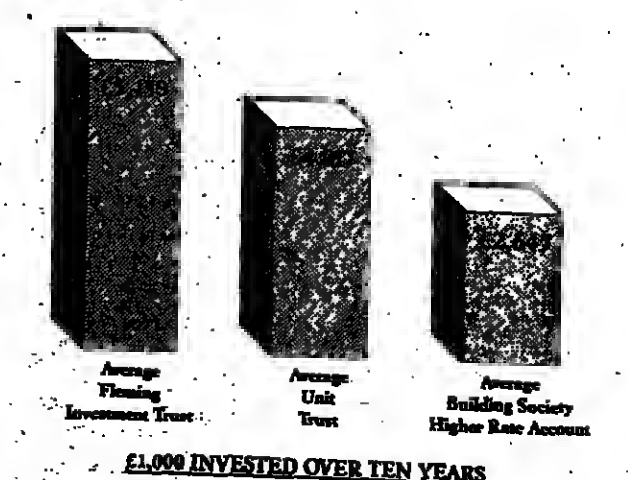
HUMMUS

- a. A hornet's nest
- b. Chick-pea paste
- c. The fieldmouse

MASSIC

- a. A cube of wine
- b. The Gamish mace battle-axe
- c. A monk's robe

Answers on page 32

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Source: Microplot, gross income estimated, 2/11/92. Offer in aid. The Flemings and unit trust figures include charges. The value of investments within a PEP and the number of shares can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

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